

ENGLAND & ITALY KICK OFF - Results & Reports pages 23-24

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

VOL 16 No.735 - TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1995

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WEEKLY

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Saudis in
35° heat**

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JOEYS
to play in
England**

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VAN
BASTEN
RETIRES**

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find-a-STAR

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C Y R A M A R Y E K V Q Z P K P J L O O
E Y L L A H C O L L O O Z O A O I M A J
G E C T R J O H P M E Y I S S E M J O C
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M D U C K O O P Z C H F D A J J H F D B

★ find-a-STAR ★ find-a-STAR ★ find-a-STAR ★

AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answer the questions below then find the answers in the FIND-A-STAR above

- 1) Who was Brazil's Edwaldo Isidrio Neto otherwise known as?
- 2) Who has the record for the most World Cup appearances?
- 3) Who is the only man, apart from the great Beckenbauer to have won a World Cup winners medal as a player and as a manager?
- 4) Which Bolivian player in the last World Cup arrived with the nickname "The New Platini"?
- 5) Which Cameroonian had the dubious distinction of being dubbed the "Black Van Basten"?
- 6) In the 1973 FA Cup final between Sunderland and Leeds who made the still miraculous "Montys Save"?
- 7) Which member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup team is the younger brother of legend Socrates?
- 8) Which team in the last World Cup were given the incentive that anyone who scores a goal will receive a Mercedes Benz?
- 9) Who was recently awarded 'European Player of the Year' to much controversy?
- 10) Who after a thousand rehearsals, still managed to miss-kick the first goal of the World Cups opening ceremony?

Darren Alley

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AWARITEFE A WANTED MAN



BY CON STAVROS

Champion goalscorer Francis Awaritefe has vowed to bounce back harder than ever this season after being dumped by South Melbourne earlier this month.

The popular striker, who was the league's leading scorer in the pre Mark Viduka days of 1995, was told by coach Frank Arok that he was no longer wanted for "budgetary reasons" just one week before pre-season training. "I was shocked", admitted Awaritefe.

"I thought up until I broke my leg last year I was playing some of my best football. Even when I returned towards the end of the season I thought I made an impact. When I spoke to Frank earlier in the year before going overseas on a holiday, he assured me I was required."

Awaritefe, a highly sought recruit, is now stuck in legal limbo land, thanks to a court injunction by axed teams Heidelberg and the Melbourne Zebras against Soccer Australia.

The dumped clubs would ordinarily have probably been first in line for Awaritefe's services, but it seems that has paved the way for Latrobe Valley giants the Morwell Falcons to target him.

The Falcons have made no secret of their desire to lure someone of Awaritefe's capabilities to Morwell, where he would most likely operate in a mid-field role.

At 31, Awaritefe still believes his body has several good playing years left and is unfazed by the travel to Morwell should that deal eventuate.

"I don't think that's a big issue," says Awaritefe of the two-hour plus trip to Morwell Falcons Park. "They train most nights in Melbourne and I think it's only one night a week where I'd have to travel there."

Morwell however aren't the only bidders for Awaritefe, who has had a \$25,000 transfer fee slapped on his head by South.

A number of interstate teams are rumoured to be interested, with Sydney United believed to be leading the charge.

United were desperately short of goal-scoring talent last season and coach Branko Culina has been a fan of Awaritefe's ever since they teamed up for a goal feast at North Geelong.

"It is sad to leave South Melbourne, I've made a lot of good friends there," says Awaritefe. "I'm being philosophical about it though, it's one of those things that happen in soccer. I'd love to stay in Victoria if possible, but if the right offer came along from interstate then I'd consider that."



Francis Awaritefe: A wanted man.

Frustrated Kalac back in Australia

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Zeljko Kalac, Australia's international \$1.7 million towering goalkeeper, returned back to Sydney from Germany last Friday completely frustrated and almost shattered.

The giant goalkeeper who was sold for an equally giant transfer only last month by his Australian club, Sydney United to England first division side Leicester City, returned to Sydney to attend his best friend's wedding last Saturday night.

But the wedding was NOT the real reason for Kalac's return.

The big fellow has been quietly cooling his boots whilst living in Germany.

The lanky sportsman has been staying with his cousins at a small village near Stuttgart whilst anxiously, and most frustratingly waiting for the British Government to grant him his vital work-permit allowing him to join Leicester City in England.

However, the British Government's Employment Office has held up Kalac's work-permit application.

According to the Government Department there is a technicality that the Australian goalkeeper has not played enough World Cup qualifiers.

Despite having played 13 full internationals for

Australia, not one of these caps was for a World Cup qualifier, a technicality which neither Leicester City or Kalac were at first aware of.

Last night an understandably angry Kalac broke out to

ABSW, pleading in his defence: "How on earth could I have played World Cup qualifiers when today I am only 22 years of age."

"Australia's last World Cup qualifiers were played against Argentina, and that was two years ago which would have made me only 20 years of age."

"No country in the World has a 20-year-old first choice goalkeeper in their World Cup side."

Since originally being signed by Leicester City early last month, Kalac has been based in Germany where his new club Leicester City did two weeks of their pre-season training.

When the time came for Leicester to return to England, Kalac's permit still had not been processed and despondently was forced to remain behind.

Now Leicester City is

wild with the whole affair

many goalkeepers in

and are most determined to seek Court action to unblock Kalac's entry path into England.

Whilst still waiting for this to happen, Kalac decided to fly to Sydney last Friday to attend a wedding, and in the meantime start training again with Sydney United and keep in shape.

Kalac went on to add last night: "Leicester last Saturday lost their first home match to Stoke City."

"They wouldn't be at all happy about this as you just cannot afford to lose at home if you are serious about getting promoted straight back into the Premier League at the end of the season."

"Leicester has now conceded four goals, all from crosses, in just two matches despite winning the first 1-2."

"I have noticed that

England are not too keen on coming out well off their line and that is where they concede numerous and needless goals from dangerous crosses."

"I'm very confident in coming out. Both

Leicester's manager, Mark McGhee and coach Mickey Hickman are very excited with my form and both are fully aware just how much I love to come out for those crosses.

"Both urgently want me there as quick as possible but all this waiting is frustrating us all," again pleaded Kalac.

Leicester's current goalkeeper is 32-year-old Kevin Poole who played in goals all last season when the club was in the Premier League.

Kalac trained in Germany during the off-season with Leicester's other Australian signing, Marconi's attacking midfielder, Steve Corica.

"Steve was firing well in Germany and all the Leicester coaching staff was very pleased with him."

"Steve had no problems with a work-permit as he also carries an Italian passport," Kalac explained.

"I now want to know as soon as possible where I stand with the British Government."

"I must know within the next two weeks so I can go ahead and re-plan my career as well as my life if this hold up continues for much longer."

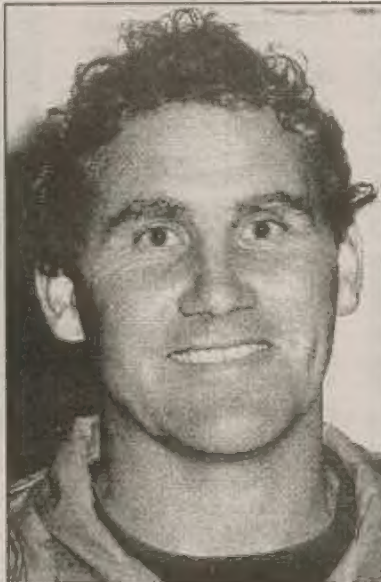
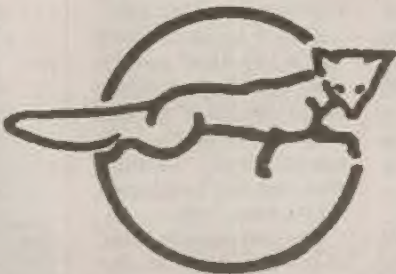
"In all this time I spent in Germany I felt every day that some good news would filter through and that all this mess would be cleared up."

"But not so, still."

"In the meantime, I will be training with Sydney United and just pray that any day some good news will come through from England," ended Kalac.



Zeljko Kalac: Demoralised waiting for his British clearance.



Mick Hickman: Leicester City's Australian coach is excited with Kalac's form.

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THE GOOD OIL... THE GOOD OIL...

WITH JOHN ECONOMOS

The very old saying 'it's a small world' certainly applies to Australian Soccer as well.

Last Thursday night, Marconi's Soccer Secretary Mr Frank Labbozzetta on his way to Italy hoping to sign up midfield wizard Ermanno Pelucchi, stopped over at Singapore airport.

And who do you think he should bump into in the transit lounge?

None other than Sydney United's giant goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac.

Zeljko was on his way back to Australia from Germany to attend his best friend's wedding last Friday night.

Mr Labbozzetta had very little trouble spotting the 202cm Kalac who towered well above the hundreds of diminutive Singaporeans in the crowded Lounge.



Don Campbell: His memoirs are now in print.

Mr Constantine, (a lawyer), is now back at his new offices in Maroubra rebuilding his much neglected law practice.

Former Australian FIFA-badged referee, Mr Donald Campbell has just released a book.

Australia's longest serving whistler from that wonderful City of Adelaide, has written a 205 page autobiography called "The Campbell Files".

The Glaswegian's book includes 57 stories, 35 photos and 20 pages of player, coach, referees, team and administrative profiles.

South Australia's leading Soccer scribe,

Mr Allan ('Kit Kat') Crisp said about the book: "This fascinating, racey autobiography provides compulsory reading for all devotees of the round ball game."

ROBBIE ('Wheel Chair') IRONSIDE, Sydney Olympic's powerful Kiwi midfielder, is almost certain to make his comeback into the NSL with his old club.

After missing the entire NSL campaign last season, Robbie made a surprise appearance last week when he turned up to Olympic's training sessions and impressed coach David Ratcliffe.

Ironside, a confirmed bachelor who last month got married, spent most of last season playing in Hong Kong with fellow Olympic team-mate Kris Trajanovski who also is back at Olympic.

CLUB MARCONI from day dot has always set the example as being one of Australia's most outstanding clubs when it comes to all forms of promotions or public relations.

President Mr Tony Labbozzetta with the Marconi Board of



Frank Labbozzetta: Shocked to find Zeljko Kalac in Singapore.

Directors on the 19th of next month will again hold a special luncheon, their annual pre-season 'Salute to The Sponsors' gathering where the lavish Marconi club invites all their team sponsors.

At Christmas time, Marconi repeats the whole exercise in fine style, and again once more at the end of the season.

That's what 'servicing sponsors' is all about.

Major team sponsor yet again, (for what could easily be a record 10th consecutive year), will be none other than Brescia Furniture, owned by Marconi's very own philanthropic 'Il Padrino', Mr Tony Brescia.

MARK BOSNICH, Aston Villa's outstanding Australian goalkeeper, turned on a magnificent second-half performance last Saturday for his team against Premier Division giants, Manchester United at Villa Park.

With Villa leading 3-0 at the break and in front of 34,655 highly excited fans, United came storming back desperate for a draw but found Mark in a most defiant mood to deny United a share of the spoils.

Villa opened their season with a shock 3-1 win over Alex Ferguson's Red Devils.

The Australian Soccer Federation has still to officially announce the two key administrative positions of Director Of Coaching and the High Performance Manager.

Don't be surprised when the time comes that the first position could be filled by the former Newcastle K.B. coach and former Director of Coaching of NSW, Alan Vest.

The phlegmatic Vest since his days at the NSW Soccer Federation five years ago, has been coaching Sarawak in the Malaysian Football League.

The High Performance Manager's position is highly likely to be given to former Australian Director of Coaching, Mr Mike Wells.

FRANK FARINA, Brisbane Strikers' glamour off-season signing, made a surprisingly strong comment last week about Brisbane's training and playing facilities.

Last week Farina was being most Frank when he stated to a section of the media: "The training set-up at Perry Park and the playing conditions at Lang Park are far more professional and leave many of the European



Robert Ironside: Back at Sydney Olympic.

club facilities (especially in France) for dead."

Speculation and rumours ran rife late last week that the Australian team could be set to meet Poland's national side in three friendly matches in December sometime.

The Victorian Soccer Federation is believed to be very keen on bringing out Poland.

Fine. But who are the players that national coach Eddie Thomson could draft into the senior Australia team to play them.

During the NSL off-season yet another six players have been sold to European clubs.

Gone are the Kalacs, Muscats, T. Vidmars, Lazaridis, Coricas etc, leaving behind only Australia's World Cup duel defenders Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic.

Should the Poles lob, Thomson would be forced to upgrade Australia's entire Olympic Games team for these clashes.

Where is Ronnie Smith?

Smith, the Head Coach at the A.I.S. is currently coaching team Sabah in the Malaysian Football League till the end of the season.

So who is looking after the 'ranch' back in Canberra?

None other than Steve Darby, Sydney Olympic's new Assistant Coach to David Ratcliffe.

WINTER SOCCER could be on its way back.

The Federal Courts having listed down as November 27th for hearing Melbourne S.C. and Heidelberg United's case against the ASF.

Unless ASF supremo



John Constantine: Given a clean bill of health.

3UZ's Shocker Myles

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THE GOOD OIL... THE GOOD OIL...

WITH JOHN ECONOMOS

David Hill can pull something special out of the hat to put a stop to all these highly extravagant legal games, the League's kick-off could be so delayed that the competition could once again encroach into the winter months.

THE NSW Soccer Federation's lucrative Waratah Cup Round Six competition where the NSW-based NSL clubs enter, kicks off on September 9th, 10th and 13th.

Of the eight scheduled matches, only two will be played at night.

Marconi and Sydney Olympic clash on Saturday, September 9th at Marconi Stadium at 7pm whilst newly admitted club to the NSL, Canberra Cosmos will meet Ryde City at the AIS Athletic Field at 7.30pm.

The other six matches all have 3pm kick-offs except Adamstown

Rosebud who clash with Wollongong City at 1pm on Sunday 10th September in the early match of a double header at the Gabbie Stadium where the second clash is between Leichhardt Tigers and Bankstown City starting at 3pm.

The Cup Final with \$50,000 going to the winner, has been set down to be played on October 1st at a venue to be advised.

KEVIN MUSCAT, Australia's Olympic Games tough as teak skipper is almost set to join England first division outfit, Sheffield United.

The tenacious defender who can play anywhere across the back and has even been used as a sweeper with the Olympic team, will be sorely missed in South Melbourne's backline.

Muscat will be the second 'Vegemite' player at Sheffield



Marconi President Tony Labbozzetta and long-time club sponsor Tony Brescia.

United, linking up with former Adelaide City international striker, Carl Veart.

The other Australian who used to be on United's books, centre-back Doug Hodgson, has been sold to Plymouth Argyle.

SYDNEY UNITED'S outstanding NSW defender, Robbie Stanton, could soon be changing his playing-address to just across 'the road' and link up with Marconi.

Marconi's new coach, Manfred Schaefer is understood to be most keen on drafting Stanton into his playing staff.

Schaefer is fully aware of Stanton's quality defensive abilities when he coached United two seasons back.

ALISTAIR EDWARDS, Australia's international striker based in England with Millwall, has still not

made a full recovery from the groin operation he had done in Perth during the off-season.

Edwards feels considerable pain which has greatly hindered his return to full training sessions with Millwall.

SCOTT OLLERENSHAW, former St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia and Wollongong City striker, is going great guns, firing goals in for his Malaysian club, Sabah.

Red-haired Ollie is running red-hot and now with an Australian as his coach, (Ronnie Smith), Ollerenshaw's confidence has rocketed and could end the season as the League's Top-Gun.

JOHN KOSMINA, Australia's former World Cup captain and goal-ace, took a step closer to scoring the

NSW 'double' last Sunday when his club side Warringah Dolphins downed Canterbury Berries 2-0 at Marconi Stadium in the Major Semi-Final.

Kosmina had already won 'the first-past-the-post' leg of the double, and now the hungry blond Dolphin boss has his sights fixed on the Grand Final.

Marconi this Saturday night will play in a Charity match at 7.30pm against neighbouring club Sydney United at the Marconi Stadium.

This charity match will be sponsored by the Fairfield City suburban newspaper and all the proceeds will be donated to the Spastic Centre.

All fees including player and referee payments will be donated to the charity for the building fund of the Spastic Centre complex now being constructed at Wetherill Park.

This complex when completed will be named the Fairfield-Marconi Spastic Centre.

At the moment this Spastic Centre has been operating its offices on the premises at Club Marconi.

Marconi will play their annual pre-season match against their sister club Adelaide City on Sunday week September 3 with kick-

John Kosmina: With his newly-born daughter Zoe.

off set down for 2pm at Marconi Stadium.

This time it's Marconi's turn to host Johnny Perin's Adelaide City team here in Sydney and the

reason for the early afternoon kick-off is to allow the Black and Whites ample time to catch the last flight out of Sydney back to Adelaide.



Alan Vest: Is he the ASF's new Director of Coaching.

MARCONI STILL WAITS FOR CORICA OFFER

MARCONI's Board Of Directors, despite having numerous telephone conversations last week with English club officials at Leicester City, have still not received a formal offer for their star and pacey international attacking left midfielder, Steve Corica (right).

Marconi's chief, Mr Tony Labbozzetta informed ABSW late last night: "We have already granted Steve his overseas clearance last month to train as well as play with England First Division side Leicester.

"Now according to international transfer laws, we have extended to the English club 30 days in which to submit to Marconi's Board an official offer for Corica.

"To date this has still not been faxed across to us which I'm confident they will do so sometime during this week," ended

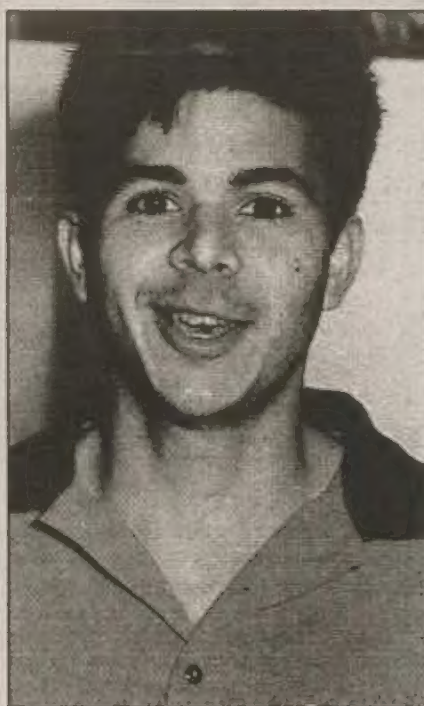
an unduly concerned Marconi president.

It is firmly envisaged at this stage that Marconi's Board will be demanding a \$1 million-plus fee from the English club for the spectacular Corica.

Corica made his dream debut in the English League just over a week when he scored Leicester's opening goal in the first match of the new English season.

Leicester City went on to secure a 1-2 win over Sunderland. But last Saturday, the highly ambitious Leicester, who are urgently seeking promotion back into the Premier League, crashed unexpectedly at home to Stoke City.

Leicester City in the meantime is experiencing technical problems with another of their off-season Australian signing, that of giant goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac (see page 3).



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Letters to the Editor

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Dribble all the way to the bank

Dear Sir,

Having already said that I was on leave in Europe I was stunned to find out that three teams had been chucked out of the NSL.

Okay, that is old hat now I realise, but why couldn't we have 16 teams as suggested before? The standard will improve after a year or so.

This will give players a chance to prove themselves at the highest level.

Also it will give them the opportunity to have more choice in selecting an NSL team.

I also realise that money will be a big factor in having more teams.

Each club would look more towards increasing sponsorship. In spite of Chris Jack's comments I thought that Jamie Kyritsis' letters included some good points — the Mickey Mouse running of the NSL and keep football simple and in its traditional form. Don't make too many rule changes because of inability of players to score goals.

Wiel Coever (of the



Coever method) made a good point in which he said that players lose the skill of dribbling because no one can teach them this skill anymore.

Dribbling is one way where goals may be increased, as you will be able to go around your direct opponent and therefore create more space and draw out other opponents. It is a specialised skill and a coach needs to show kids/players how to do it.

Coever said that very few top players can do this well consistently. If we start making late changes we will lose the beauty of the game and I am sure that people will keep on changing it as a precedent is created. And

don't let the Americans get their hands on it or it will look like Aussie Rules with a round ball.

And Jamie's comment on Mickey Mouse running of the NSL is spot on. In most instances the coaches and players of the NSL did not know who they were playing one or two weeks before the competition! You would go to the Melita Stadium on Saturday night, as planned only to be told it is on Sunday, as the NSL did a quick shift!

They should know when foreign teams are coming so that coaches can plan accordingly.

Everything seems to be planned on an "ad hoc" basis. In summary, my tip to young players is to concentrate on skills and especially dribbling — even if you learn, analyse it from videos — because a good dribbler, in the future, is going to be worth a fortune.

Also it's one aspect that people pay money for to go and see.

Gerry van Duuren,
UWS, Nepean Westmead.

Keep our boys at home

Dear Sir,

It was gratifying to read that Frank Arok (right) had picked up the remarks in my letter to you published in 'ABS' of 25.7.95.

The letter was headed 'AIS Investment Buyback' in which I called for an effective return on investment for the players being put through the AIS by the Australian tax-payer.

Of the current crop of graduates who are not only accomplished players but have well-rounded personalities, I know of three who are off to Europe.

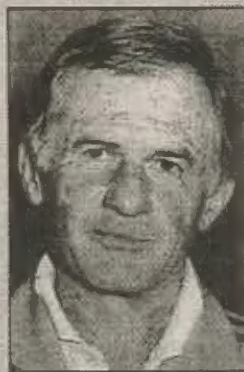
There is Andrew McDermott and Lucas Neill who look like being snapped up by QPR in London. They have cost this Club nothing to produce, they have had international experience and as I said before 'are without doubt desirable acquisitions.'

Hayden Foxe, the NSL Youth Player of the Year for 1994-95 is on the second part of a trial with the European Champions Ajax of Amsterdam.

There may be others from the AIS scholarship programme who are off to a foreign club.

There are fantastic opportunities in the World Game for the products of the AIS and NSL and even State Leagues.

We should expect our



AIS graduates to give back something to the country.

As my letter said, and Arok echoed, an agreement needs to be made that the AIS product will stay in Australia, with a local club, for a period of two years before he can transfer overseas.

There is no doubt that the players going directly overseas will be tempted, and will succumb, to play international football for a country other than Australia. Total benefit of the investment at the AIS will be lost to Australia forever and our national teams could find themselves facing opponents with Aussies in their line-up.

Is this a matter for Soccer Australia (ASF) to address or the Australian Sports Commission. Whoever has responsibility needs to get moving and soon.

Bob Brooks,
Seven Hills, NSW.

GET IT RIGHT!

Dear Sir,

Reading with great interest the letter in the ABSW of the 15th August by Mrs Chris Jack (or is it Mr) I notice that the word intelligence has taken a new meaning. Definitely, nothing surprises me or amazes me any more.

First, may I make it clear that it has never been my desire nor do I intend to keep on answering to letters directed at me, but in this situation I make an exception. In my last letter to ABSW at no stage do I recall as saying or having suggested that David Hill (below) is a fascist or the re-incarnation of Adolf Hitler.

If that is what Chris Jack thinks I said or suggested then I say it must have crossed his mind at one stage or another to make the comparison. Definitely it has never entered my mind to compare David Hill to Adolf Hitler.

Second, how can anyone think, that the type of publicity that Soccer is getting from the scenario that David Hill has created is good publicity is beyond me to comprehend. (But then again not surprised with the intelligence). Definitely, what has been created by David Hill is uncertainty, mistrust amongst the clubs and destabilisation to the three axed clubs.

Chris Jack obviously has never been to Melita Stadium, or for that matter to any NSL games, otherwise he would have seen the Grand Stand with undercover seating. Chris Jack asks

'how can I justify Parramatta Eagles inclusion in the NSL'

Again I do not recall any such justification, but nevertheless I say that unlike Newcastle (twice bankrupt) and Canberra (bankrupt once) Parramatta Eagles has a proud record of always having paid their debts.

Here I ask how much are the legal fees for this scenario going to cost the ASF and who is going to pay for it? Definitely I do not think it is going to be coming out of David Hill's pocket. In other words, I think he is playing the big shot with

ASF money. As in the past, one can see where a big chunk of the deficit that David Hill has been talking about is going to.

You see Sir, since David Hill became Chairman of the ASF the word intelligence took a new meaning, and is now better known as stuffing up soccer. In the meantime may I suggest to Chris Jack to get his or her facts right, forget War and Peace as that is history and take up knitting instead.

Joseph C. Deguara, Sylvania Heights, NSW.



Wedding Bells



Soccer's Wedding of the Year: Socceroo and Olyroo Gabriel Mendez with his bride, 1994's Miss Hispanoamerica Natalia Greco.

BRISBANE DEBUT THREATENED

BY WAYNE HEMING
OF AAP

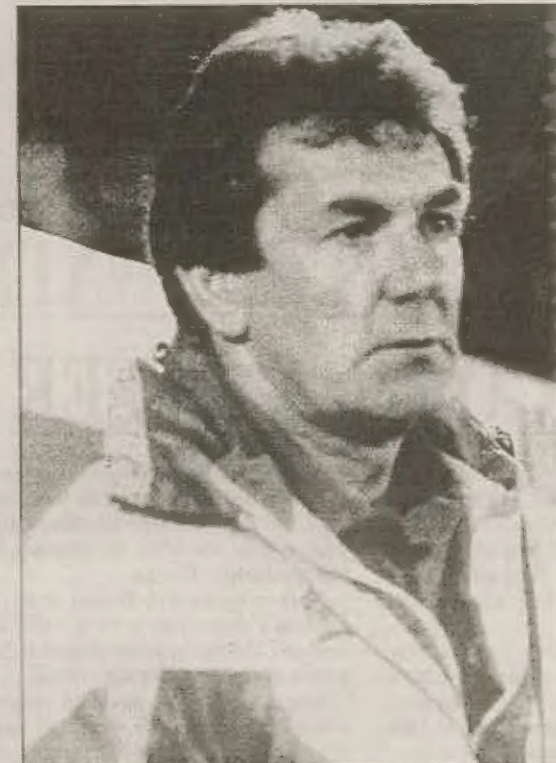
Brisbane coach Bruce Stowell fears the NSL's current court challenge from dumped clubs may force the Strikers to surrender their season-opening Suncorp Stadium debut against proven crowd-puller Marconi next month.

The Strikers will play their home games this season at Suncorp Stadium (formerly Lang Park) in a bid to offer fans and sponsors first class facilities and increase their chances of attracting television coverage.

Brisbane has put a deposit on Suncorp Stadium for September 16.

The ground, the home of the South Queensland Crushers rugby league club, is unavailable the following two weekends which could seriously upset the Strikers' plans of staging a big home town season launch against Marconi.

Their first game against Marconi is expected to pull a big crowd and help win



Bruce Stowell: Is concerned that Brisbane's first game may have to be switched.

over supporters.

But Stowell says he's concerned the Strikers' first game may have to be switched because of the

setback caused by the league's court battle.

The Strikers have pulled off a recruitment coup in signing international star

Frank Farina but Stowell says a number of other key player signings hinge on the complicated court action by three clubs seeking re-instatement.

Meanwhile Queensland soccer officials have announced the best and fairest player award for the XXXX League will be re-named the Clem Jones Medal in honour of the former Brisbane Lord Mayor who secured the original lease on Perry Park.

Rothmans, who first sponsored the award in 1974, have withdrawn their support because of the government's stand on tobacco advertising.

Strikers boss and former Australian Soccer Federation president Ian Brusasco said the name Clem Jones, synonymous with "everything good in sport", would help make sure the award was again a sought after and honoured soccer prize.

"Clem Jones has added great prestige to the medal by adding his name to it," said Brusasco.

"He's always been a great man of the people."

Souths set sights high

**10,000
members
by the
Year
2000**

BY CON STAVROS

Progressive NSL team South Melbourne have set themselves an ambitious target of becoming one of the most popular sporting clubs in the country by the turn of the century.

South, who are moving into a sensationally refurbished Lakeside Stadium this season as part of the Albert Park redevelopment scheme, are aiming for a membership base of 10,000 within five years.

The total would exceed the level of any professional sporting team in Australia outside of the major AFL teams.

"It's very ambitious we know," says club manager Peter Filopoulos, "but we



South Melbourne's 1994/95 squad: The club is aiming to become one of the most popular sporting clubs in Australia.

plan to have 2,500 members this year, 5,000 within three years and then see if we can get to 10,000."

South Melbourne already have close to 1,500 members signed up for this season, despite the uncertainty of the league structure and

starting date.

The revamped competition has already given the club some headaches, with the reduction in number of teams and the addition of a third round making it difficult for the club to outline its plans.

"Supporters who

purchased memberships already will be able to attend the first 13 home games under those conditions," explained Filopoulos.

"It was too complicated to change things once the league announced its new plans."

South Melbourne's Lakeside Complex promises to be a showpiece venue for the national competition, with a capacity of 12,000 supporters served by modern facilities.

Whilst construction is progressing well, the club is unsure as yet whether

the pitch will be ready for the first weeks of the league, because of Melbourne's relatively wet winter.

South Melbourne last won the league championship in 1991, but have had a heart-wrenching run since then by losing in the

preliminary final every year.

Coach Frank Arok had already made a number of changes for his second season in charge, surprising many people by dumping Soccerroo players Jason Polak, Francis Awaritefe and Gary Hasler.

Vaughan Coveny is the only major signing so far, with the former New Zealand international's transfer fee up for arbitration.

The club has also picked up Con Blatsis from the Australian Institute of Sport and is itching to talk to a number of players from other clubs.

"We have a list of desirable signings and we'd like to talk to some, but we are scared we would be in contempt of court," says Arok of the legal action by axed clubs Heidelberg and the Melbourne Zebras that has put the league in limbo.

Arok hinted that there were a number of players in the dumped clubs he'd consider should they become available and that South Melbourne was also looking closely at a number of Victorian Premier League players.



JOEYS HEAD FOR PREMIER LEAGUE

BY GORDON DEXTER OF AAP

Two members of Australia's Under-17 world championship team have landed opportunities to play for English premier league clubs.

Full-back Harry Kewell has signed a three-year deal with Leeds United, initially as an apprentice, while striker Daniel Allsopp will have a one-month trial with Southampton.

Allsopp scored five of the Joeys' six goals in their four games in Ecuador where they reached the quarter-finals before falling 3-1 to Brazil, equalling Australia's best performance at Under 17 level.

Arriving back at Sydney airport with the team last Thursday, Scheinflug said the pair had shown at the world championship they had a bright future in the game.

He also heaped praise on defender Sebastian Sinozic for his efforts in the three group matches before succumbing to injury.

Scheinflug thought Australia could have advanced to at least the semi-finals if Sinozic had been fit to play against Brazil and described the Parramatta Eagles player as one of the most outstanding defenders he had seen in the past decade.

"With Sebastian there we could have beaten Brazil, but losing your best defender for such a game was difficult, he was the key," Scheinflug said.

"They were very ordinary youngsters before leaving but have become a good unit, and we were a bit unlucky against Nigeria (a 2-0 loss) when five players came down with food poisoning and I felt we were a bit unlucky against Brazil," he said.

"You can't help what God is preparing for you, there's no good making excuses."

Scheinflug described 16-year-old Kewell



Daniel Allsopp: One-month trial with Southampton.

as a born soccer player who could play any position.

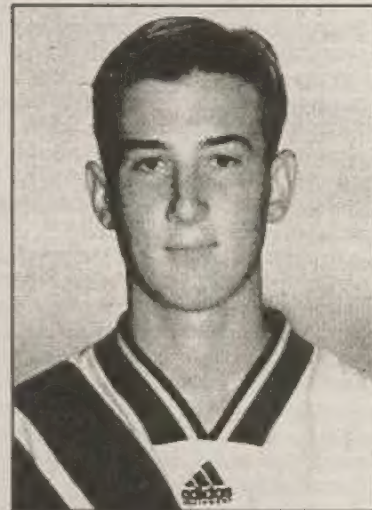
"He's so versatile, he's a player-and-a-half and should go well at Leeds."

Kewell said he was excited about his opportunity in England. He will leave on September 1 and joins the club that Soccerroo keeper Zeljko Kalac turned down a few weeks ago after initially agreeing to a \$A1.2 million fee.

"It'll be very different over there but I'm going for three years and will give it my best," Kewell said.

Allsopp, who turned 17 last week, said the Southampton trial was one of several options open to him. But he would not disclose which Australian national soccer league clubs were interested in him.

He was the world championship's leading scorer after the quarter-finals of a



Sebastian Sinozic: Sorely missed in the quarter final loss.

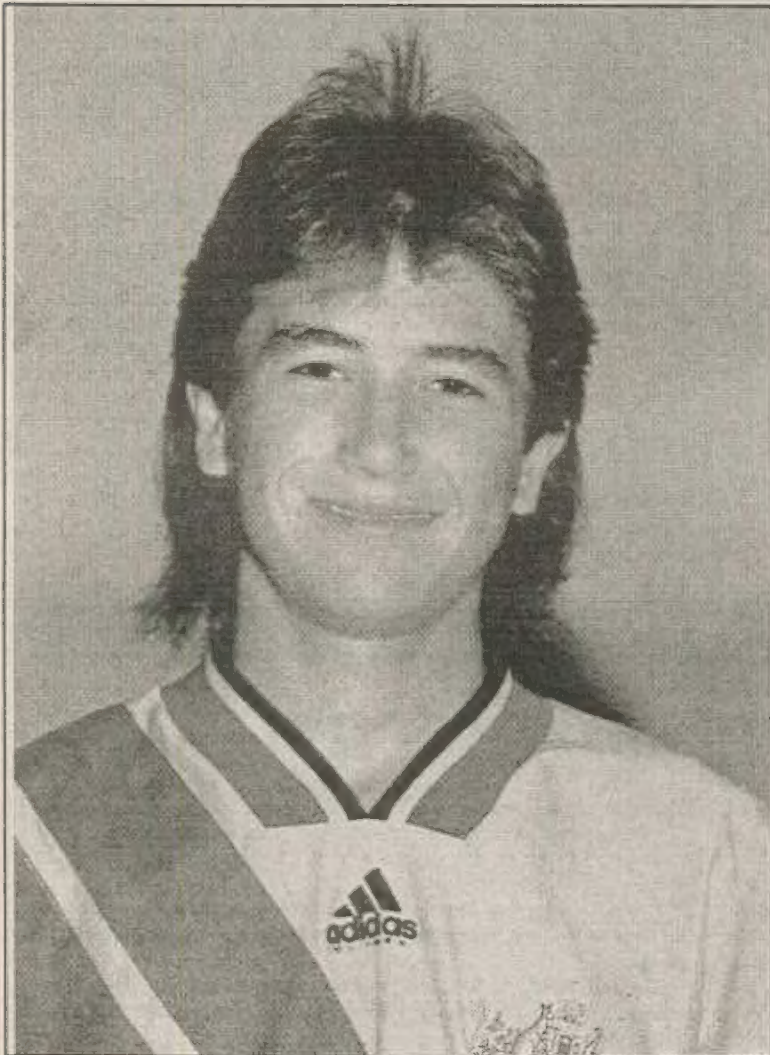
competition which has reached the semi-final stage.

The Joeys began their campaign with a 2-2 result against Spain but then suffered a major disruption with five players going down with severe food poisoning on the eve of the match against the powerful Nigerians.

The 2-0 loss left the Australian side with an uphill task to qualify for the knock-out stage. They had to beat Qatar by a big margin and hope that there was a winner from the Nigeria-Spain match.

The Joeys performed in a pressure situation to beat Qatar 3-0 and qualified for the quarter-finals thanks to a late Nigerian winner.

They lost at the same stage in 1991 and '93. The 1997 world championship will be held in Egypt.



Harry Kewell: Signed with Leeds as an apprentice.

COMMONWEALTH BANK
BILL TURNER CUP

Queensland Champions

BY DAVID DONALDSON

An enthralling two nights of soccer saw Yeppoon State High School crowned as the winner of the Queensland section of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup in the school's first year in this Under 15 schools competition. The win qualifies Yeppoon for the national semi-finals to be held in Newcastle on September 5 and 6.

For the first time schools from Central Queensland entered this competition and Yeppoon, set up by Principal Rob Stones as a school of excellence for soccer, has exhibited great teamwork along with individual skills in progressing to and beyond the Queensland finals.

Semi-finals and finals were contested on an excellent playing surface at Chris Green Park, Beenleigh before a good crowd appreciative of the endeavours of each of the final four teams.

Probably the outstanding game of the finals weekend was the first semi-final between Yeppoon and Brisbane SHS, with two very classy sides playing some very skilful football.

An early goal for Yeppoon from Captain Darryl Anderson was quickly answered with a brilliant Brisbane goal by exciting attacking midfielder Dimitri Bellas who turned his marker inside out with a great run of 30 metres before slotting home the goal.

Yeppoon went ahead again just prior to half-time via a goal to striker Ben Cummins. More end to end play in the second half finally produced another equalising goal from the penalty spot to Brisbane's Aaron Broadbent. In a frantic last quarter the pendulum eventually swung in favour of Yeppoon with Cummins adding a second goal to his tally.

Despite their great efforts Brisbane could not equalise for the third time and they went down by 3-2. Player of the match on the losing side was Dimitri Bellas while Aaron Broadbent and Steven Oresganin, the latter playing under an injury cloud, also played well.

For Yeppoon Joel Bendall was outstanding amongst several outstanding contributions. His control and ball distribution in the centre of the midfield was a delight and he was ably supported by goalscorers Cummins and Anderson.

The second semi-final on the Friday night was again closely contested with an early goal to Chris Kraudelt of Shailer Park SHS answered by goals to Nick Maskey and Keegan Wu of Brisbane Grammar to produce a final scoreline of 2-1 to Brisbane Grammar.

Steven Unsworth (Grammar) won the star player award for his busy performance in the midfield while Craig Kenman and Nick Maskey also played well for the winners.

For Shailer Park, right wing Craig Radley proved frequent headaches for the Grammar defence while Craig Barnes showed skill and strength in playing something of a lone hand in the midfield. Daniel Travers-Jones also tried hard.

The consolation final on Saturday night between Shailer Park and Brisbane was a little one sided with Shailer Park never really recovering from conceding a goal in the first minute. Missing key players for this game, Shailer Park tried hard with sweeper Dal Evans outstanding but Brisbane were far superior with Dimitri Bellas continuing to exhibit his ability in several outstanding runs. Goals to Ryan Fett, Dimitri Bellas, Dimitri Halicos and to Heath Pryde gave Brisbane a comprehensive victory over the defending champions by 4-0.

Favourites Yeppoon started well in the final but struck a very physical and committed Brisbane Grammar determined to shut down key Yeppoon players early.

Grammar goalkeeper David Moran was outstanding making a series of crucial saves early to deny Yeppoon. Eventually the Grammar defence cracked conceding a goal three minutes before half-time to Ben Cummings (his third in two days).

The second half was again closely contested but Grammar could not break down the Yeppoon defence and the Central Queenslanders held on to record a well deserved win. Darryl Anderson, newly recruited to the QAS took out the star player award of a watch and \$100 account with sponsors, Commonwealth Bank.

Anderson was a very strong presence, both in defence and in attack and was well supported by Joel Bendall, a nippy midfielder with great dribbling and passing ability and Doug Cook who gave a no-nonsense performance as sweeper.

In addition to goalkeeper Moran, defender Craig Kenman worked hard for Grammar, making several last ditch tackles in difficult situations, while Steven Unsworth again tried hard in the midfield. Overall, the more highly skilled team won the Queensland final with a feeling amongst the experts that this could be the first Queensland side to go all the way and win the national final on September 6 in Newcastle.

QUARTER-FINAL: Yeppoon 1 Brisbane Grammar 0, Lambton 2 Holy Cross Ryde 1, Westfields 3 Pat Bros Fairfield 0, Holy Spirit Bellambi 2 Daramalan College 0.

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP

SEMI-FINAL: Westfields 5 (M Dang 3 C Care A Buttigieg) bt Colyton 1 (E Husnu), Sydney Tech 1 (A Adamo) bt Oxley 0. Commonwealth Bank Shield semi-f: Westfields 5 (K Golebiowski 2 C Copeland A Cavanagh L Byrnes) bt Henry Kendall 2 (A Copeland 2), Pennant Hills 3 (E Harrison 2 d Clarke) bt Richmond River 1 (B McGrath) at Seymour Shaw

SLATER JOINS HAMMERS FOR MORE PLAY

Australian international Robbie Slater was blunt about his move from premier league champions Blackburn to perpetual strugglers West Ham.

"I'll probably play more, that's obvious," he said of his exchange deal transfer to the east London club last week.

Slater said he had been part of former Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish's plans but he didn't appear to be part of new manager Ray Harford's calculations.

The Hammers have turned avoiding relegation into an art form in recent seasons but Slater is confident they'll be stronger this year.

"They're a very good club with a lot of tradition who've had many famous players and I'm very pleased to join them," he said.

Slater is also delighted that fellow Socceroo Stan Lazaridis will be joining West Ham from West Adelaide.

"I know Stan well and he's a very good player," he said.

"His joining too makes it even better."

Slater reckons that by now a top class Australian team could be selected from Australians playing in the English leagues.

But he thinks some promising teenagers come over too early.

He said he could understand how English football was a glittering prospect for ambitious youngsters.

"But they come over here and get taken on very bad terms and are used as cheap labour with no guarantee that things will improve," he said.

"They are better off staying in Australia getting experience until they're 20 or 21 and are more mature."

At 30, with a 10-month-old daughter, lack of maturity is hardly a problem for Slater.

"Who knows how many more years I have at the top?" he said.

"Anyway, it's supposed to be bad luck forecasting how long you have."

Australian international Robbie Slater has moved to Premier League club West Ham from champion Blackburn Rovers for \$A1.2 million, joining fellow Socceroo Stan Lazaridis at the Hammers.

Slater moved to West Ham on an



Robbie Slater: "I'll probably play more, that's obvious."

exchange deal, with Matt Holmes switching to Blackburn for the same amount.

West Ham managing director Peter Storrie said:

"Stan is an outstanding prospect, an old-fashioned winger, and everybody knows about Rob Slater's abilities — he can play on the right or in the middle. We have a very strong squad now."

"It is a very good deal for Matt, Rob, and the football clubs concerned — and there are very few times when you can say all of that."

Of Holmes, a player signed from Bournemouth for just \$A84,764 three years ago when current West Ham manager Harry Redknapp was in charge, Storrie added: "We are sad that Matt is leaving because he is a lovely lad — you could not meet a nicer individual."

"But it's not about balancing the books. When you sell good players you need to bring good players in."

"Robbie can't understand how we finished so low last year — and he knows we are ambitious."

Slater, who was born in

Skelmersdale, Lancashire and moved to Ewood Park from French club Lens, joins the Hammers on a three-year deal.

However, it is not the end of the Hammers' transfer dealings, with Storrie admitting that the club is looking to sell one or two other players in the next fortnight to raise money for further arrivals.

But Gerry Creaney at Portsmouth is not a target, while Martin Allen, linked with a swap deal the other way, may yet move on. He is interesting Derby.

CANBERRA COSMOS

New NSL club signs international

Canberra Cosmos boss Michael Lyons last week scored a coup for the fledgling national soccer league club with the signing of dual international Norman Kelly from the Brunei national team.

The 24-year-old midfielder player plays in the Malaysian league with Brunei and has played for Northern Ireland Under 21s, Raith Rovers in the Scottish premier division and Dunfermline in the Scottish first division. He was an apprentice with English first division club Oldham Athletic.

Lyons coached Kelly at Brunei and said he would arrive on a free transfer within the next few weeks in time to start the 1995-96 season,

provisionally set down for the end of September.

"He has good skills and plays with heart. I am pleased we have come to terms, I think he has a great deal to contribute to our club," the former Everton defender said.

Lyons said he was negotiating with several players but would not disclose how much money he had available to delve into the transfer market.

The ASF board voted Canberra into the league on June 26 and the club will play at the Canberra Raiders' rugby league ground, Bruce Stadium.

Heat & humidity exhausts Olyroos

BY GORDON DEXTER
OF AAP

Australian coach Raul Blanco blamed searing heat and extreme humidity for his depleted side's lacklustre 3-0 loss to Saudi Arabia in an Under 23 friendly at Taif City last Friday.

Magnifying the Olyroos' problems, the team was without its four overseas players and lost full-back Vinko Buljubasic just hours before kick-off with a hamstring strain.

The visitors conceded three first-half goals and Blanco admitted afterwards that his side was lethargic and did not play to its potential.

He said the turning point came after 30 minutes when 21-year-old defender Mark Babic was forced off with a corked thigh with the side trailing to a seventh minute goal. He was replaced by Michael Valkanis.

Within four minutes of Babic's departure the Saudi's struck twice, including a cruel own goal after 32 minutes when a shot from the edge of the box took a wicked deflection off Sean Cranney's body to leave goalkeeper Frank Juric flat-footed. It was an unfortunate blow for Cranney who came in for Buljubasic.



Bradley Hassell: Came on for Joe Bacak but to no avail.

"Babic had played very well for us against West Ham in our last two matches and it was a real blow to lose him at that stage, he's very important for our defence," Blanco said.

The match was played in 35 degree heat and near 100 per cent humidity — despite starting late in the evening — and the players struggled after only three days to adjust.

"We didn't acclimatise properly and it showed, we just didn't play to our potential, their legs were very heavy," Blanco said. "But their character showed in the second half

and they had two or three chances to hit back.

"When they came off they were totally exhausted and lost up to three-and-a-half kilos in sweat.

"The Saudi's had played nine internationals in the past six weeks at home so they were ready for us."

Blanco tried to engender more movement within his team, bringing on Goran Lozanovski and Brad Hassell for Gabriel Mendez, returning from injury, and striker Joe Bacak.

The Olyroos were without Glasgow Rangers defender Craig Moore, Dynamo Zagreb striker Mark Viduka, Bristol City striker Paul Agostino and Nottingham Forest midfielder Anthony Carbone, while West Adelaide midfielder Ross Aloisi did not travel because of injury.

The team is preparing to face New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu and Tahiti in the Oceania Olympic qualifiers in January at a venue to be decided.

It needs to win the round-robin tournament to advance to the final qualifying round, against the second-placed team from the North American CONCACAF group which includes Mexico, the US and Canada.

The Olyroos have had a handful of internationals this year — against Denmark,



Mark Babic: His injury after 30 minutes was crucial.

South Korea and Japan — in a four-nation tournament in Australia where the Olyroos finished third after beating Japan 3-1 in the third and fourth place play-off.

They also played two

matches against touring English premier league club West Ham this winter, losing 1-0 in Sydney before bouncing back with an impressive 4-0 win over the Hammers on the Gold Coast.

Vidmar transfer dispute problem for Adelaide

BY PETER KRUPKA
OF AAP

Adelaide City is waiting Aon Soccer Australia to help resolve the multi-million transfer wrangle involving Socceroo striker Aurelio Vidmar but the sport's controlling body says efforts to stop him playing for his new side will prove futile.

Soccer Australia chief executive Ian Holmes said last week reports that Adelaide City could stop the former star playing for his new Dutch side, Feyenoord, were incorrect because of rules set out by the world governing body FIFA.

City has been chasing its share of the 28-year-old's \$5.3 million transfer from Belgium club Kortrijk to the Rotterdam side since the deal was finalised last month.

The Zebras claimed they are entitled to 25 per cent (around \$1.25 million) because of a deal Adelaide made with Kortrijk which related to any future transfer of Vidmar.

City Chairman Fred Lenzi said the club would do all in



Zoran Matic

its power through Soccer Australia to get what it was owed.

Former City coach Zoran Matic said also in an article in this week's Sports Weekly that City would halt Vidmar's Feyenoord debut unless the dispute was resolved, a move Holmes said would be useless.

"Adelaide City can't stop him playing," said Holmes.

"The FIFA statute says it's a dispute between the two clubs (City and Kortrijk) and they can't stop players from

playing."

Vidmar left Adelaide City for Belgium for \$250,000 in 1991 and Kortrijk has dodged paying City for future transfers by claiming he was on loan during two seasons at rival club Waregem (1993 and 1994) and last season with Standard Liege.

Holmes said Soccer Australia had sent letters to both Holland and Belgium and was waiting for a reply.

Lenzi said while he was happy to wait for Soccer Australia to discover the truth behind the well publicised Vidmar transfer, he was sure City officials would need to travel overseas to have any hope of collecting the club's biggest ever pay cheque.

"Until we get notification on the legal aspects of the transfer we can't really do much," Lenzi said.

"We've got our solicitors handling it but if there's foul play in any way, the ASF (Soccer Australia) is going to have to issue the orders.

"We are resolved to the fact that it probably won't be solved until we get on a plane and go over there and front up with those clubs."



Aurelio Vidmar: Adelaide claim they are entitled to 25% of his latest transfer fee.



FINAL SERIES

SUPER LEAGUE

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Leichhardt 1 Blacktown City 1
(2-4 penalties)

UNDER 21

Adamstown 2 Leichhardt Tigers 0

UNDER 18

Macarthur 3 Adamstown R'bud 1

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Warringah 2 Canterbury Berries 0

UNDER 21

Blacktown City 0 Bonnyrigg WE 3

UNDER 18

Blacktown City 0 St George Saints 0
(2-4 penalties)

DIVISION ONE

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Sthn Minotaurs 3 Ryde City 3
(3-2 penalties)

UNDER 21

Sthn Minotaurs 1 Ryde City 1
(1-1 penalties)

UNDER 18

Syd Cosmos 2 Ryde City 2
(4-5 penalties)

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Belmore Her 0 Central Coast 1

UNDER 21

Central Coast 2 Sydney Cosmos 1

UNDER 18

Mt Pritchard 1 Central Coast 4

DIVISION TWO

PRELIMINARY FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Penrith 2 Bathurst '75 4

UNDER 21

Bathurst '75 3 Parramatta City 1

UNDER 18

Penrith 0 Bankstown Sports 1

DIVISION THREE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Gladesville Utd 0 Alexandria 1

SECOND GRADE

Greystanes 0 Prairiewood Utd 2

DIVISION FOUR

PRELIMINARY FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Hawkesbury C 3 The Wanderers 2

SECOND GRADE

G Wanderers 1 Sydney Uni 1
(1-3 penalties)

DIVISION FIVE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

FIRST GRADE

St Joseph's 0 Marrickville 1

SECOND GRADE

Angels L'pool 0 United Eagles 2

DIVISION SIX

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Bossy 3 Nepean Districts 1

SECOND GRADE

Nepean Dist 0 Kingsford 1

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

FIRST GRADE

Blacktown Utd 1 Queens Park 0

SECOND GRADE

Maroubra Utd 1 Bossy 0

BLACKTOWN
DEFY ODDSMINOR
SEMI-FINAL
SATURDAY
AUGUST 19

Blacktown City Demons 1
Adam Whan 7mins

Leichhardt Tigers 1
Michael Reda 41mins
(after extra time of
30 minutes)

Penalties: Demons won 4-2

BY BOB BROOKS

A desperately determined Blacktown City Demons overcame the sending off of two players and 30 minutes of extra-time to sensationally win the consequent penalty shoot-out over Leichhardt Tigers in the Super League Minor Semi-Final.

All three games between these two well-matched teams this season have ended in draws, with just four goals being scored in 300 minutes of tight football.

It took the dreaded penalties to separate the sides.

Frank Mikuletic, in the Tigers goal, had a nightmare of a game suffering badly with high crosses into his area.

In the seventh minute one such incident provided the first goal.

Martin Driene, out on the right flank, drove a chest high, powerful ball into the penalty area.

Mikuletic misjudged it dropping the ball, to which Adam Whan got a foot, stabbing the ball into the net.

From a Blacktown corner in the 23rd minute Gigliotti swung over a long ball to the far post which eluded the flailing arms of the Tigers goalie.

Scott Ashton got his head on the ball but it went just outside the post.

Shaun Freestone was the first Leichhardt player to get a shot on target halfway through the opening half.

His attempt went over the bar. Blacktown were within a whisker of increasing their lead when Anthony Versi fed the ever dangerous Driene.

The winger's cross was headed backwards by Whan for Steve Berry who volleyed well.

The attempt struck the underside of the bar, bounced on the line and was gratefully cleared.

With four minutes to go to the break a mistake in the Demons defence produced a fortunate rebound to Michael Reda.

His delightful chip over the advancing Dragan Pupovac found the target.

Reda was again prominent as he took a direct free-kick on the edge of the penalty area.

The shot screamed millimetres over the crossbar.

Tony Pezzano, the Tigers coach, was sent off by the referee for the second week in succession. This came in the 73rd.

Five minutes later Whan received his marching orders for a second yellow card offence.

He clipped the ankles of Paul Souris who then rolled five metres. As the Blacktown player left the field Souris got up and did a little jig — a most unsavoury sight.

Within seconds Reda went forward, took on and beat two men before firing in a wicked shot which hit the corner of the upright going harmlessly away.

Leichhardt substitute David Blinoff, just 16 years of age, received a gift ball and headed off for goal.

Damon Langan quickly hauled him in but unfairly brought Blinoff down resulting in a second Blacktown player receiving his marching order just moments before the referee blew for the end of 90 minutes.

Could Blacktown survive for another 30 minutes of extra-time was the question buzzing around the well-appointed Gabbie Stadium. Leichhardt became disorganised but had their chance nine minutes in.

Reda, proving himself the most effective Tigers player, put in a super cross to Blinoff just five metres out.

The youngster fired through two Demons defenders but somehow Pupovac got down to stop the ball on the line.

With only six minutes to go Blacktown were awarded an indirect free-kick inside the penalty area.

Jason Connolly rolled it sideways for Sarkis. Boudaher but his blast hit the defensive wall and came out.

Demons coach, Ken Schembri, made a tactical change with the referee looking at his watch. He brought on Andrew Crews for the top performing Pupovac. What a master stroke his move proved to be.

Crews saved the first Leichhardt penalty shot, Blacktown continued to convert theirs.

The fourth one for the Tigers had to be re-taken as referee Leverton alleged Crews had moved his feet.

The substitute keeper repeated his previous save on the re-take and the nine men Blacktown City Demons amazingly progressed to the Preliminary Final.

The cheers of the Demons supporters rang loud and long at this stunning end to an eventful match.

DOLPHINS IN
CRUISE CONTROLMAJOR
SEMI-FINAL

Warringah Dolphins 2
Steven Hickman 22mins
(penalty)

Jason Bennett 29mins

Canterbury M'ville 0

BY BOB BROOKS

The champions Warringah Dolphins cruised into the Grand Final against a Canterbury team lacking in cohesive ideas by 2-0 at Marconi Stadium on a very warm Sunday.

Warringah are a well oiled machine playing to their strengths and with arguably the best goalkeeper in Super League with Matihew Bloomfield.

On the rare occasions when the Berries managed to breach the Dolphins cast-iron defence, Bloomfield was always perfectly placed to clear up the danger.

Ross Etherington was a constant thorn in the side of the harassed Canterbury as he joined the attack and created havoc in their penalty area.

In fact the first shot in anger by the Berries didn't come until the 18th minute when Tom Divljak tried a long range effort which was too high and posed no danger.

The awkward looking



Stuart Cleary was brought down in the box by Anthony Drouzas as he weaved to try to find some space.

From the resultant penalty Steven Hickman sent Steve Tolios the wrong way to give Warringah the lead after 22 minutes.

The dominance of the Dolphins was such that it took Canterbury till two minutes after the opening goal to gain their first corner.



Vlado Zoric powered forward but his shot rebounded over the goal line from the body of Bloomfield.

It was no surprise when Warringah increased their lead at the 29th minute mark.

Danger - man Etherington threaded a delightful pass through the

Canterbury defence where Jason Bennett was rushing in.

Bennett drew Tolios and slotted the ball home from close range.

Bloomfield showed his ability moments later as he spectacularly dived and took the ball clearly from a Louis Dounis power driver.

Canterbury rang the changes in the second half but it was all to no avail. The side became increasingly frustrated and as a consequence referee Brett Hugo handed out five yellow cards.

The Berries will be struggling to put on a viable team on Sunday against Blacktown as they will have several players out due to yellow cards.

Warringah will be hoping that the injury to Bennett's leg is not severe but he was carried off 10 minutes from time.

The Dolphins, on this performance, must be favourites to take out the \$30,000 on offer for the Top Five Series winners as they clearly showed in the beating of Canterbury. Only a rejuvenated Blacktown with Patrick Bradley in the side can offer any challenge.

Canterbury meet Blacktown on Sunday at the Gabbie Stadium at 3pm.

Both sides will be weakened due to suspensions and injuries but a keen contest is on the cards.

WEEKEND DRAW

FINALS SERIES
SUPER LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Sunday 27th August, 1995

Blacktown v Canterbury Gabbie Stadium 3.00pm

1ST DIVISION

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

Saturday 26th August, 1995

Sthn Minotaurs v Belmore Her Lynwood Park 2.30pm

2ND DIVISION

GRAND FINAL

Sunday 27th August, 1995

Bankstown v Bathurst '75 Ernie Smith Res 3.00pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885 (max. call cost 70c/min.)

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SPORTSCENE

Finals focus on Altona Magic

Coach — Ian Dobson
Home ground — Paisley Park
Victorian Championships — None
Finalists — 1994 and 1995



Robert Runje fends off a challenge.



MAGIC TO PRODUCE UNDER PRESSURE

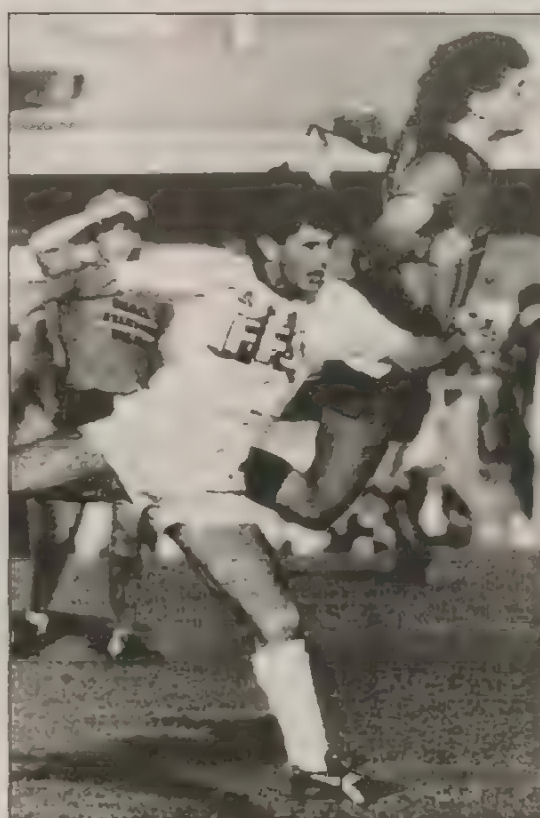
Victorian state coach Ian Dobson set about putting some steel into Altona Magic when he took over in 1993 and over that period this team has moved swiftly into contention for the big prize.

Whilst never sacrificing the skills which have been Magic's hallmark in recent years, Dobson has welded in some grit, organisation and consistency.

Last year's magnificent season was killed by a dramatic late season fade and a galling elimination final exit.

This year Magic has gone on with the job and will contest the finals from a position of authority and with deserved confidence.

A team capable of anything, although still question marks about the temperament to produce the quality under pressure.



Tom Markovski clears from Northcotes's George Tsangas.



Magic's veteran and inspiration Paul Harris.

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

STATE ONE

SATURDAY, 24TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Northcote City*	v	Croydon City
SUNDAY, 27TH AUGUST		
Lalor United	v	Western Suburbs
Caulfield City	v	Oakleigh
Thomastown Devils	v	Clarinda
Richmond	v	Frankston Pines
Knox City	v	Bentleigh Greens
Westgate	v	Br. Meadows City

STATE TWO

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Spr. White Eagles	v	Clifton Hill
Altona East	v	Mooroolbark
Nunawading City	v	East Richmond
Waverley City	v	Ess. Brun. Royals
Moorabbin City	v	Chelsea
Regent Bulla	v	Altona City
Ringwood City	v	Bell Park

STATE THREE

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Westvale	v	Melbourne City
Fitzroy City	v	Pascoe Vale
Frankston	v	El. Dia Valley
Sth Dandenong	v	Sth Caulfield
Seaford Utd	v	Sth Werribee
Banyule	v	Keilor Eagles
Sandringham City	v	Sunbury Utd

STATE FOUR

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Geelong	v	Williamstown
Langwarrin	v	Sunshine Heights
Nth Coburg Utd	v	Brighton
Sth Springvale	v	Cranbourne
Sth Wantirna	v	Corio
Stonnington City	v	Doveton
Monbulk	v	Yarraville

PROVISIONAL ONE

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Geel. Rangers	v	Old Scotch
Glenroy	v	Spring. Condors
Melton	v	Brandon Park
Mitcham Utd	v	Ballarat
Lalor	v	Knox Park
Moreland	v	Dandenong
Heidelberg City	v	Nth Sunshine

PROVISIONAL TWO

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 24

Mornington	v	Nth Glenroy
Hampton Pk Utd	v	South Yarra
Monash Uni.	v	Broadmeadows Utd
Meadow Park	v	Berwick City
Keysborough	v	East Nun. Eagles
Lyndale Utd	v	Braeside Utd
Hoppers Crossing	v	Brunswick City

PROVISIONAL THREE NORTH WEST

SUNDAY, 27TH AUGUST ROUND 19

Upfield	v	West Preston
Mill Park	v	Whittlesea Utd
Sydenham Park	v	Darbin Utd
Sunshine Park	v	Diamond Valley
Northern Utd	v	Keon Park
Nth Reservoir	v	Lalrope Uni

PROVISIONAL THREE METRO

SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST ROUND 20

Parkmore	v	Melb Uni Rangers
Keilor Utd	v	Ringwood Rovers
Endeavour Utd	v	Riversdale
Carrum Utd	v	T'stowe Eagles
Ashburton	v	Elwood City
Uni Melb Blues	v	Yallourn

PROVISIONAL THREE STH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 27TH AUGUST ROUND 19

Thornbury	v	Wav. Wanderers
Endeavour Hills	v	Ivanhoe Utd
Flem. Falcons	v	Cam. Gram. Old Boys
RMIT	v	Collingwood City
Oakleigh Utd	v	East Kew
Nth Caulfield	v	Wantirna

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ Premier League
 - ◆ State League Div. 1
 - ◆ Provisional League Divisions 4&5
- (Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

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SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ Premier League
 - ◆ State League Divisions 1 to 3
- (Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

- ◆ State League Division 4
 - ◆ Provisional League Divisions 1-3
- (Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

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VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

SUNSHINE 2 FAWKNER 0

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

The Sunshine Georgies secured the double chance with a 2-1 victory over the Fawkner Blues at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday. A double strike from Craig Lewis was enough to ensure the luxury of the double chance for the Georgies.

The Georgies made hard work of it, knowing that only a win would guarantee the double chance. Lewis' first came on 15 minutes, largely thanks to Alex Kiratzoglou who controlled the ball in a tight area before delivering a pinpoint cross to the ace striker who headed easily past Eric Janssen. Lewis had a great chance to give his side a two-goal buffer when Agim Sherifovski played him through, but with only Janssen to beat he blasted his shot wide. Sunshine got their second goal right on full-time with Lewis making amends for his earlier miss by blasting past Janssen after Anthony Cassar had set him up.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Melrose, Field, Cassar, Robert Ferla, Daglaras, Lewis, Aretis, Kiratzoglou, Stenson, Sherifovski (Pappas).
BLUES: Janssen, Ricky Ferla, Goulis, Kuzman (Ambrosini), Schipano, Scicluna (Magnach), Recchia, Bordignon, Minichiello, Basias, Crivari.
REFEREE: Carlo Graser
VOTES: 3 - Robert Ferla (SG); 2 - Daglaras (SG); 1 - Kiratzoglou (SG).

GREEN GULLY 3 DONCASTER 0

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

The Green Gully Cavaliers

ended their season on a positive note, defeating the relegation bound Doncaster Rovers 3-0 but their brave attempt to qualify for the play-offs was ultimately to no avail.

The first half saw both defences well on top, the only real chance being a 20-metre strike by Daniel Genovesi that was well saved by Rovers' keeper Glenn Clarke.

Two minutes after the interval, David Maglovski, lurking near the far post, easily slotted the ball past Clarke following a Gully cross through heavy traffic in the box.

In the 68th minute, referee Stan Bialecki credited John Campelj with the Cavaliers second goal following Campelj's corner, but it appeared to be an own goal after Clarke got his hands to the ball. The Gully victory was rounded off by Genovesi 11 minutes later when he met a Maglovski cross on the goal line to head home his 11th and final goal of the season.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Ketsakidis, Crodden, Maglovski, Campelj (Davis), Chetcuti, Scoble, Waddell, Tricarico (Kindner), Neceski, Genovesi.

ROVERS: Clarke, Wallace, Morgan (sent off), Hennessey, McBride, McGeachey, Martin, Greenwood, Vokes, Haloulas (Risteovski), O'Donnell.

REFEREE: Stan Bialecki
VOTES: 3 - Maglovski (GGC); 2 - Genovesi (GGC); 1 - Vella (GGC).

NORTH GEELONG 0 PT MELB. 5

BY ROY HAY

North Geelong's hopes of a place in this year's play-offs

Premier League FINAL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Port Melbourne	26	22	3	1	60	13	69
Altona Magic	26	14	5	7	36	29	47
Sunshine Georgies	26	12	10	4	43	27	46
Bulleen Lions	26	11	9	6	31	22	42
Albion Redsox	26	11	6	9	31	32	39
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	10	8	8	31	26	38
North Geelong Warriors	26	9	7	10	31	32	34
Fawkner Blues	26	9	5	12	25	35	32
Box Hill Inter	26	7	8	11	25	30	29
Springvale City Vales	26	7	7	12	31	47	28
St Albans Saints	26	7	5	14	32	33	26
Preston Lions	26	6	7	13	28	37	25
Doncaster Rovers	26	4	10	12	21	43	22
Werribee Bees	26	5	6	15	25	44	21

TOP SCORERS

18	M. Tsaltas (Port Melb)	9	T. Calle (Box Hill)
14	C. Lewis (Sunshine)		M. Trupkovic (N Geelong)
13	V. Trpcesvki (Altona M)		S. Becvinovski (Preston)
12	G. Svigos (Port Melb)		D. Gnjdic (Fawkner)
11	D. White (Bulleen)		P. Lutgens (Bulleen)
	D. Genovesi (Green Gully)	8	N. Papadopoulos (Pt Melb)
10	T. Pondeljak (St Albans)		J. Tricarico (Green Gully)
	J. Suric (Werribee)		M. Lennon (Springvale)

in the Premier League came crashing down when the league's top scorer, Nick Tsaltas, banged in four goals in Port Melbourne's 5-0 victory. Port got a penalty kick after 11 minutes when Stephen McAuliffe put a sliding challenge on George Georgiadis. Tsaltas blasted the ball past Marijan Vunderl.

Then Tsaltas struck twice within a minute to end the game as a contest, heading a cross from Bill Daglis over Vunderl, then stopping on the ball as defenders skidded past and poking his shot into the corner.

Tsaltas was on target again in 67 minutes finishing off after Daglis had a shot, but Daglis finally got on the score-sheet in 89 minutes heading home a cross by substitute Nick Mitrakis.

Port coach Taki Svigos said afterwards, "We gave several players a chance today and they all did well, but we have lost Nick Palamaras for the first game of the finals. I am very pleased with what my players have done this season."

WARRIORS: Vunderl, Bot, O'Sullivan, Medved (Pandzic), Cosic, McAuliffe, A. Skoko, Kules, Dimovski, Deak, Fitzpatrick.
SHARKS: Anastasiadis, Pasakos, Dimitrelos (Karagianis), Karakyriakos, Fak, Papadopoulos, Palamaras, Georgiadis

(Mitrakis), Tsaltas, Kotzagiannidis, Daglis, Svigos.
REFEREE: Jim Markovski.
VOTES: 3 - Tsaltas (PM); 2 - Dimitrelos (PM); 1 - Bot (NGW).

WERRIBEE 1 BULLEEN 0

BY NINO NAPOLI

Werribee, playing its last game in the Premier League downed finals giant Bulleen 1-0 at Galvin Park.

Werribee could have taken the lead early in the first half when a Jani Suric shot from outside the box was well saved by Jeff Oliver. The winning goal arrived in the 77th minute when 17-year-old Ryan Gilmour headed past Oliver via a corner.

Moments before the goal a Goran Georgievski cross was met by Suric whose header was well saved by Oliver.

The Bees were without six senior players including Steve Douglas, Jack Androulidakis, Pece Stojceovski, John Vallese and Robert Napoli.
BEES: Giatas, Calderwood, Gilmour, M. Jablonski, Inserra, Carraro, A. Jablonski, Smart, Donnelly, G. Georgievski, Suric.
B. LIONS: Oliver, Valentis, Liparotti, Krajacic, Tsiakos (Bresciano), Lenetis, Grbac, White, Giaccherini, Iebbianco,

Lutgens.
REFEREE: Steve Kravetski.
VOTES: 3 - Smart (WB); 2 - Carraro (WB); 1 - Krajacic (BL).

ST ALBANS 0 ALTONA 0

BY JOHN RIGAS

A scoreless draw against the Altona Magic was not enough for the St Albans Saints to remain in the top flight as their year ended in the relegation zone.

St Albans got off to a promising start as they pressed Altona hard in the early proceedings.

The Magic hit back quickly with Henry Velkovski unleashing a 25-metre shot that goalkeeper Lupce Acevski blocked, luckily, no Altona player was on hand to pick up the loose ball.

The Magic continued to pile on the pressure with shots

from Velkovski, Zoran Cvetkovski, Nick Georgopoulos and Nick Radecki. After the interval St Albans dominated play and they were unlucky not to have an impact on the scoreboard when Tom Markovski blocked two shots that were goalbound.

SAINTS: Acevski, I. Rados, Mikulic, S. Rados, Milanovic, Markovac, Gagula, Movric (Pondeljak), Jolic (Krijina), I. Colina, Kirishian.
MAGIC: McGrath, Tasevski, Velkovski, Cvetkovski, Harris, T. Markovski, Georgopoulos, Emovski (Runje), Kutlesovski, Radecki (Madarovski), Atanasovski.

REFEREE: Michael Calapietra.

VOTES: 3 - I. Colina (STA); 2 - T. Markovski (AM); 1 - Acevski (STA).

PRESTON 0 BOX HILL 1

BY NICK
GIANNAKOPOULOS

Box Hill Inter have survived and will be playing in the Premier League next season, at the same time condemning last year's champions to relegation, as it defeated Preston Lions 1-0 at Connor Reserve.

The first chance fell to the Lions in the 31st minute when Gerry McAleer's first-time volley was goalbound only to be denied by the woodwork.

Moments later Sash Becvinovski was denied by a lunging clearance off the line by an acrobatic Dean Tartaglia.

Two minutes before half-time Box Hill's first chance resulted in a goal when Peter Psarros' through-ball fell to Gary Frezzini who slotted the ball past Tom Rajkovski.

After the game a happy Psarros said, "We had them all game, the game was not as intense as you thought it would be."

PRESTON: Rajkovski, Spasevski, Stojceovski, Chiodo, Chalmers, Pender, Cuculevski, Becvinovski (Ilievski), McAleer, C. Sterjovski, Romanovski (Lakovski).

INTER: Baker, Pansino, D. Tartaglia, Mazzini, Dal Ben, Inglese, Guscic, Roodhouse,

Psarros, Frezzini, Guglielmi.
REFEREE: Colin Ellis.
VOTES: 3 - Psarros (BH); 2 - Pansino (BH); 1 - Cuculevski (PL).

SPRINGVALE 0 ALBION 3

BY SCOTT SPITS

Albion Redsox not only secured the last finals spot with a 3-0 win over Springvale City Vales on Sunday, but found some great form at the right time of the year.

The Redsox needed a win to confirm their spot in the post-season action and overcame a tense and fiery first half to trounce the Vales in a convincing three-goal second half. Not even the loss of key player Sonny Sevin, who was stretchered off with an ankle injury, could stop the Redsox passage to the finals.

Goals to Albion came in a 27 minute burst after half-time. Mark Wilson, Martin Collins and John Grimaud were the scorers. The final minutes saw the rare sight of joy from both camps as Albion fans celebrated their fortune and the news came through that Springvale had missed relegation, despite the crushing loss.

VALES: Dastey, Rep, V. Grella, Selemidis (Lettieri), Craig, Geri, McMinimee, McClenaghan (Nield), D. Grella, Nilo, Lennon.

REDSOX: Brian, Kuyucuogullari, Grimaud, Osman, Lucchesi, Wilson, Sevin (Trani), Collins, Fehmi, Gupinar, Vesnaver.

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.
VOTES: 3 - Collins (AR); 2 - Wilson (AR); 1 - Grimaud (AR).

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

SUNDAY

(At Paisley Pk, Altona)
Bulleen Lions v Albion Redsox (Elimination Final - 12.30pm)
Altona Magic v Sunshine Georgies (Qualifying Final - 3.00pm)

TOP VOTES

ABSU PROCEE VALL
SPORTS SCENE PLAYER
OF THE YEAR
FINAL LEADING STANDINGS

25	S. Rusmir (Port Melb)
20	C. Emovski (Altona)
	T. Pondeljak (St Albans)
18	G. Stenson (Sunshine)
	Z. Markovski (Green Gully)
17	G. Svigos (Port Melb)
16	N. Papadopoulos (Port Melb)
15	T. Neceski (Green Gully)
	N. Tsaltas (Port Melb)
14	J. McBride (Doncaster)
	G. Dimovski (North Geelong)
	A. Sherifovski (Sunshine)



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VICTORIAN LADDER

ABSW

**PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Gr. Gully Cvil.	26	20	2	4	60	26	62
Sun. Georgies	25	15	5	5	57	23	50
Bulleen Lions	23	13	5	5	48	29	44
Fawcner Blues	25	13	4	8	53	48	43
Preston Lions	22	14	0	8	62	36	42
St Alb. Saints	24	10	8	6	41	36	38
Altona Magic	26	11	4	11	46	42	37
Pt Melb. Sharks	26	9	5	12	35	43	32
Werribee Bees	26	8	7	11	40	43	31
Spr. City Vales	26	7	8	11	44	42	29
Don'ter Rovers	25	7	6	12	45	42	27
Box Hill Inter	25	7	5	13	43	52	26
Nt. Geel. Warrior	26	6	5	15	36	61	23

STATE ONE FIRSTS

Bent. Greens	23	15	6	9	55	23	51
Thomas Devils	22	14	5	3	47	29	47
Clarinda	23	10	3	7	35	30	36
Westgate	23	9	7	7	39	34	34
West. Suburbs	23	10	7	6	24	20	34
Lalor United	22	9	7	6	30	27	34
Richmond	23	8	6	2	34	38	30
Croydon City	22	8	6	8	37	36	27
Northcote City	23	6	10	7	30	29	25
Caulfield City	22	6	5	11	31	39	23
Frank. Pines	22	5	6	11	28	33	21
Oakleigh	22	5	4	13	25	46	19
Knox City	21	4	6	11	22	41	18
Broadmeadows	21	4	5	12	27	33	17

STATE ONE RESERVES

Richmond	22	14	4	4	66	35	47
Oakleigh	22	13	5	4	50	30	44
Bent. Greens	21	11	6	4	43	22	39
Th'town Devils	21	10	5	6	36	29	35
Frank. Pines	21	9	6	6	41	32	33
Knox City	20	8	7	5	38	28	31
Broadmeadows	21	9	4	8	39	45	31
Caulfield City	22	6	8	8	44	40	26
Northcote City	20	9	2	9	37	44	29
Clarinda	20	7	4	9	31	35	25
Lalor Utd	18	6	3	9	23	32	21
Westgate	21	6	1	14	36	62	19
West. Suburbs	20	5	3	12	33	47	18
Croydon City	21	2	2	17	16	61	8

STATE TWO FIRSTS

Sp. White Eagles	20	15	4	1	46	20	49
Moorabbin City	21	13	6	2	40	13	45
Waverley City	22	12	8	2	45	20	44
Ess. Brun. Royals	23	13	6	4	54	36	42
Bell Park	23	9	5	9	29	35	32
Regent Bulla	21	8	7	6	40	32	31
Nunawading City	23	7	7	9	22	37	28
East Richmond	21	6	8	7	20	26	26
Altona East	21	6	6	9	36	27	24
Chelsea	21	6	4	11	22	31	22
Mooroolbark	21	5	6	10	23	38	21
Ringwood City	23	5	4	14	27	43	19
Altona City	23	4	6	13	24	49	18
Clifton Hill	21	3	3	15	25	51	12

STATE TWO RESERVES

Moorabbin City	21	17	3	1	80	20	54
Waverley City	21	15	2	4	65	23	47
Altona City	23	14	5	4	59	32	47
Sp. White Eagles	21	12	4	5	46	25	40
Regent Bulla	20	12	3	5	63	27	39
Ess. Brun. Royals	20	10	5	5	43	17	32
Ringwood City	22	9	0	13	42	60	27
Altona East	23	7	6	10	26	46	27

Mooroolbark	21	8	2	11	38	46	26
Clifton Hill	20	7	4	9	25	27	25
Bell Park	23	6	1	16	25	62	19
Nunawading City	22	5	2	15	20	50	37
East Richmond	23	4	4	15	28	68	16
Chelsea	20	2	3	15	16	73	9

STATE THREE FIRSTS

Westvale	23	17	4	2	74	26	55
Sth Dandenong	22	14	5	3	63	23	47
Melb. City	22	14	2	6	38	25	44
Sth Werribee	23	13	4	6	42	31	43
Frankston	22	11	3	8	51	33	36
Sth Caulfield	20	10	2	8	27	29	32
Elt Dia Valley	20	8	6	6	29	29	30
Keilor Eagles	22	7	8	7	23	23	29
Pascoe Vale	23	8	4	11	37	40	28
Fitzroy City	21	8	2	11	21	33	26
Banyule	22	7	1	14	38	56	22
Seaford Utd	23	5	4	14	34	60	19
Sunbury Utd	22	4	4	14	21	44	16
Sandringham	21	0	5	16	13	59	2

STATE THREE RESERVES

Westvale	19	18	0	1	69	11	54
Seaford Utd	21	12	4	5	39	20	40
Pascoe Vale	19	12	0	7	44	29	36
Frankston	20	11	2	7	61	26	35
Keilor Eagles	21	9	6	6	35	26	33
Melb. City	22	10	1	11	35	45	31
Elt. Dia. Valley	18	8	4	6	39	35	28
Sth Caulfield	18	7	5	6	30	31	26
Sth Dandenong	20	7	5	8	31	52	26
Sandringham	19	7	4	8	30	28	22
Banyule City	21	6	4	11	33	45	22
Sth Werribee	22	6	2	14	42	69	20
Sunbury Utd	21	4	3	14	32	51	15
Fitzroy City	17	1	2	14	15	67	5

STATE FOUR FIRSTS

Sth Springvale	20	15	3	2	42	16	48
Cranbourne	22	13	8	1	47	17	47
Geelong	23	13	7	3	55	26	46
Stonnington	22	11	5	6	39	29	38
Monbulk	21	8	8	5	28	21	32
Sun. Heights	22	9	7	6	33	26	31
Langwarrin	21	9	3	9	46	36	30
Williamstown	23	9	2	12	18	38	29
Yarraville	20	8	4	8	24	19	28
Corio	22	6	8	8	26	47	26
Nth Coburg Utd	23	6	7	7	31	24	25
Sth Wantirna	23	7	0	16	32	53	21
Doveton	22	2	9	11	26	48	15
Bye (ex Bri'ton)	23	0	1	22	4	45	1

STATE FOUR RESERVES

Cranbourne	21	16	2	3	53	22	50
Langwarrin	19	14	3	2	68	20	45
Monbulk	20	13	4	3	41	24	43
Sth Wantirna	20	11	6	3	38	18	39
S'shine Heights	22	11	6	5	61	37	36
Williamstown	23	10	3	10	60	51	33
Stonnington	21	9	4	8	39	43	31
Geelong	20	8	4	8	51	39	28
Yarraville	19	8	2	9	36	32	26
Sth Springvale	20	8	1	11	36	39	25
Doveton	20	4	3	13	31	69	15
Bye (ex. Bri'ton)	23	4	2	17	30	46	14
Corio	21	4	2	15	18	72	14
Nth Coburg Utd	21	3	2	16	28	78	11

PROVISIONAL ONE FIRSTS

Moreland City	22	19	1	2	56	14	58
Lalor	23	14	5	4	52	34	47

Spring. Condors	22	12	5	5	44	25	41
Old Scotch/Hawt	22	10	8	4	41	26	38
Nth Sunshine	22	11	2	9	44	35	35
Melton	23	8	10	5	30	23	34
Mitcham Utd	21	7	6	8	34	37	27
Geel. Rangers	22	8	3	11	36	42	27
Knox Park	20	7	3	10	32	44	74
Glenroy	22	6	4	12	33	48	22
Ballarat	22	5	6	11	28	40	21
Brandon Park	18	3	5	10	19	38	14
Heidelberg City	19	3	3	13	25	41	12
Dandenong	20	4	3	13	23	50	12

PROVISIONAL ONE RESERVES

Moreland City	22	16	3	3	71	19	51
Mitcham Utd	22	16	2	4	67	19	50
Old Scotch/Hawt	22	15	4	3	57	23	49
Ballarat	22	13	3	6	37	24	42
Sp'vale Condors	20	12	3	5	63	19	39
Knox Park	21	12	1	8	48	31	37
Melton	21	11	2	8	27	27	35
Glenroy	21	8	2	11	57	58	26
Geelong Rangers	22	6	3	13	41	62	21
Lalor	23	6	3	14	34	66	21
Nth. Sunshine	22	5	2	15	28	60	17
Heidelberg City	18	3	5	10	23	44	14
Brandon Park	17	3	2	12	24	65	11
Dandenong	17	1	1	15	14	74	1

PROVISIONAL TWO FIRSTS

Mornington	21	14	3	4	35	13	45
Keysborough	23	14	3	6	57	30	45
Nth Glenroy	21	12	5	4	58	32	41
Meadow Park	22	11	6	5	51	25	39
Lyndale United	21	11	3	7	43	35	36
Brunswick City	20	8	5	7	25	29	29
Hoppers Cr'sing	22	7	8	7	36	36	26
Braeside Utd	21	7	4	10	33	42	25
Hampton Pk Utd	22	7	4	11	27	50	25
Berwick City	19	7	3	9	27	38	24
East Nun. Eagles	22	5	7	10	30	42	22
South Yarra	18	5	3	10	19	32	18
Broadmeadow Utd	21	4	5	12	26	46	17
Monash Uni.	22	3	6	13	28	45	15

PROVISIONAL TWO RESERVES

Brunswick City	18	15	2	1	61	23	47
Hopp. Crossing	22	15	2	5	62	24	44
Nth Glenroy	19	13	2	4	51	16	41
Lyndale Utd	21	12	4	5	57	30	40
Sth Yarra	19	11	5	3	45	23	38
Mornington	22	11	2	9	51	39	35
Meadow Park	20	8	7	5	41	32	31
Hampton Park	20	8	2	10	46	45	26
Br'meadows Utd	21	7	4	10	35	45	25
Berwick City	18	6	3	9	33	41	21
Braeside Utd	17	6	2	9	28	51	20
Keysborough	23	4	2	17	30	73	14
East Nun. Eagles	22	2	4	16	29	70	10
Monash Uni.	22	2	3	17	21	78	9

PROVISIONAL THREE NTH/WEST FIRSTS

Sydenham Park	17	12	2	3	51	23	38
Whittlesea Utd	14	11	2	1	43	14	35
Darebin United	17	11	2	4	41	20	35
Nth Reservoir	17	10	4	3	39	24	34
Sunshine Park	17	9	4	4	48	27	31
Latrobe Uni	15	6	3	6	29	32	21
Northern United	16	5	4	7	30	42	19
Diamond Valley	18	6	3	9	25	32	18
Upfield	18	4	1	13	20	53	13
Mill Park	17	3	3	11	27	43	12
Keon Park	17	4	2	11	28	51	11
West Preston	17	2	4	11	24	44	10

Despotovski dropped for Adelaide clash

WA Coach Eric Williams has introduced six new faces in an initial squad of 20 that will take on Adelaide City at Bayswater Oval on Sunday August 27.

One noticeable omission is Floreat Athena forward Slobodan Despotovski, who was electrifying against West Ham United and Nottingham Forest, but has since struggled to find consistency with his club. Williams indicated that his selection was based primarily on players that were in form, and one of them is Perth's promising 18-year-old striker Peter Coci who has sizzled in the past month since Gary Marocchi promoted him up from the youth league.

"The boy has definitely got potential," said Marocchi. "He's done well in the half-a-dozen games that he has played, but he's got to go on with it from here."

Swan's tall stopper Alan Hind, Stirling Lions player Scott Clissold, plus Mike

Harkness, Andrew Chapman and Dave Lee of Sorrento are the other newcomers.

The squad also welcomes back Lions' former Perth Kangaroo Steve Bourne, and Inglewood utility Lou Collova. Williams selected a 20-man squad as a precautionary measure, and will refine it to 16 once he discovers who avoided injury in the league matches running up to the Adelaide clash.

Meanwhile, there are no new surprises in coach John Perin's side, except for new signing Sasa Nedeljkovic, a midfielder formerly with Red Star Belgrade and briefly Heidelberg Utd. The former Yugoslav Olympic player guested for the Zebras in the friendly against Nottingham Forest last May. Perin is hoping to complete a 16-man touring squad with Bradley Armour, a 23-year-old utility player from State League club Woodville. City's visit will also see the return of former Spearwood Dalmatinac 'keeper Jason Petkovic who was exchanged for

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mike Harkness
Robert Zabica
Allan Armstrong
Alex Cummings
Lou Collova
Gavin Tait
Alan Hind
Gareth Naven
Richard Watson
Steve Bourne
Scott Clissold
Paul McVittie
Andrew Chapman
Jason Ainsley
Alan McTurk
Scott Miller
Peter Coci
David Lee
Michael Roki
Terry Worsfold

Goalkeeper
Goalkeeper
Defence
Defence
Defence
Defence
Defence
Defence
Defence
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Forward
Forward
Forward
Forward

Sorrento
Spearwood Dalmatinac
Stirling Macedonia
Stirling Macedonia
Inglewood Falcons
Inglewood Falcons
Swan IC
Perth
Sorrento
Stirling Macedonia
Stirling Macedonia
Stirling Macedonia
Sorrento
Inglewood Falcons
Inglewood Falcons
Perth
Perth
Sorrento
Floreat Athena
Swan IC

Robbie Zabica.

"We are all looking forward to the trip," said Perin.

"Obviously, we won't be up to match sharpness, but the team has been working very hard over the last three weeks and will be training twice a day while we are over there." The South Australian club are due to arrive in Perth this Thursday, and will remain until Monday the 28th.

ADELAIDE CITY

Jason Petkovic
Daniel Mignano
Milan Ivanovic
Joel Marino
Alex Tobin
Mark Yates
Sasa Nedeljkovic
Angi Costanzo
Goran Lozanovski
Craig Foster
John Gibson
Jamie Perin
Joe Mullen
Brad Hassall
Damien Mori

Goalkeeper
Goalkeeper
Defence
Defence
Defence
Centre-half
Utility
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Midfield
Forward
Forward
Forward

LIONS HAVE TITLE IN SIGHT

With only one round of fixtures remaining, Stirling Macedonia are just one point away from successfully defending their Professional Soccer League championship, following a 2-1 triumph over bottom side Stirling Panthers at Macedonia Park last Saturday.

But the Lions were forced to wait until the dying seconds of this tenacious encounter before they were able to secure maximum points, since the Panthers were equally desperate for success.

Macedonia earned the first scoring opportunity after the 12th minute when Sauro Perruzza conceded a hand-ball penalty, but Steve Bourne directed his spot-kick into the top-bar. Alan Mackenzie, the Panthers forward who has recently been having successful trials with NSL champions Melbourne Knights, stunned their more fancied opponents with the opening goal in the 15th minute out of an Eddie Sinclair centre.

But the Lions fought back on the half-hour through Ian Cornthwaite who finished off a Paul Lincoln and Paul McVittie move with an unstoppable drive.

McVittie came close to putting his side in front four minutes before the break from a quick taken free-kick by Norrie Sutton, but his ferocious volley smacked into an upright.

Right from the restart, Macedonia threw everything at their lowly opponents, but were forced to wait

until 30 seconds from the end before they could score the winner — and again it was a quality strike from Cornthwaite.

Meanwhile, in the Sunday clash, Inglewood Falcons have all but lost any hope of winning the championship despite their 2-0 victory over Bayswater City at the Kiev Sports Ground. The Falcons will need to win next week's game against Floreat Athena by a cracker score and the Stirling Lions must lose to Perth, in order for them to avoid being league bridesmaids for the second season in a row.

Alan McTurk opened the scoring in the 41st minute with a cruel penalty decision after City sweeper Graham Normanton handballed, whilst protecting himself from a Martin Guilfoyle strike. Inglewood were prevented from improving on their much needed goal percentage until eight minutes from time because of some brave goalkeeping by Peter Kolikow.

The City 'keeper was blameless however, for the second goal which started from a searching right-side centre by Martin Woodall. It was then headed across the goal by Trim Morgan to Guilfoyle who skilfully killed the ball with his thigh before tucking it away. Bayswater's woes worsened near the end of the game when their main striker Michael Vassiliou required 13 stitches to a head injury after an accidental clash with Inglewood defender Paul Gibbon.

Athena hammer five past Sorrento

Slobodan Despotovski, the Floreat Athena striker dumped from the WA side that are taking on Adelaide City next Sunday, showed State Coach Eric Williams, that he is far from finished, by scoring four goals in a 5-2 hiding of Sorrento at the Lake Monger Velodrome.

"I feel Bobby has been hard done by, since he has scored in our last five matches," said Floreat coach Ronnie Campbell. "He played especially well in this match, although I must admit all of the side did."

A Floreat victory however, looked a distant possibility in the opening-half since it was the visitors who were doing the majority of the telling raids. So it came as no surprise when the gulls took the lead, after Gary Racey provided Joe Kelly with his eighth goal of the season in the 35th minute.

But Floreat managed to scratch and claw their way back into the game, sparked initially by Despotovski who equalised a minute before the interval with a sensational solo effort.

Despotovski was involved in putting his team ahead six minutes after the restart, when he found an unmarked Steve Morrissey with acres of space to drill a low strike under Mark Harkness with the assistance of a cruel bounce.

With the Gulls rearguard now in defensive distress, a 62nd minute blunder involving substitute Ty Harrison and to a lesser extent Harkness, allowed Despotovski to nip in and tap home his second goal.

The lethal forward completed the drubbing by converting two penalties in the 70th and 86th minutes. Sorrento's Neil Blunt then put away a penalty of their own seconds into injury-time.

Former league leaders Swan IC have now slipped to fifth place after a 3-1 home defeat to Spearwood Dalmatinac. Goals to Dean Gartside, Gary Murray plus an own goal sunk a Swan side that has suffered three losses in their last five fixtures. Swan's only reply came from a single by Peter Murphy, who now heads the goalscorers board with 16.

PERTH CAPITALISE ON CITY'S MISSES

Perth slipped into the top-four following a gritty 2-0 triumph over relegation candidates Fremantle City at Dorrien Gardens. But it was a victory Perth had to work hard for, and were fortunate not to go behind during the early exchanges after good chances fell to Carlos Rodrigues and Dale Brewerton in the 2nd and 19th minute respectively.

The home-side gradually tilted the scales of dominance their way, and went ahead just minutes after the interval starting from a deep kick by their 'keeper Paul Moore to Dale Wingell. The tricky winger eluded the City off-side snare then ran on to slip the ball past Adrian Rawlings. Perth put the game out of Fremantle's reach five minutes from the end when a pin-point centre from Peter Coci was headed home by Gareth Naven.

PROFESSIONAL FEDERATION

DIVISION ONE			
Floreat Athena	5	Sorrento	2
Stirling Macedonia	2	Stirling Panthers	1
Perth	2	Fremantle City	0
Swan IC	1	S'wood Dalmatinac	3
Inglewood Falcons	2	Bayswater City	0

DIVISION ONE			
Stirling Lions	17	12	2
Inglewood Falcons	17	11	2
Sorrento	17	8	5
Perth SC	17	8	4
Swan IC	17	8	3
Spearwood Dalmatinac	16	7	4
Floreat Athena	17	6	2
Bayswater City	17	3	4
Fremantle City	17	3	2
Panthers	16	2	4

DIVISION TWO			
Kingsway Olympic	1	Ashfield	1
Western Knights	1	Melville Corinthians	0
Dianella WE	0	Morley Windmills	2
Stirling Vardar	1	Bass. Caledonians	1
Cockburn United	2	Southside United	2
Balcatta	3	Rockingham City	2

DIVISION TWO			
Western Knights	16	13	2
Kingsway Olympic	18	12	3
Bassendean Cal.	18	9	5
Morley Windmills	18	8	5
Dianella WE	16	8	2
Cockburn United	18	6	4
Balcatta	18	6	4
Ashfield	18	4	6
Melville Corinthians	18	5	2
Southside United	18	4	5
Rockingham City	18	3	7
Stirling Vardar	18	3	5

DIVISION THREE			
Bunbury United	4	Balga	1
Joondalup City	9	Stirling V-Reds	1
Queens Park	0	Wanneroo British	3
University	0	Perth City	3
Western Yugal	1	Armada Park	3
Geraldton La Fiamma	0	North Lake Espanol	0

DIVISION THREE			
Perth City	18	13	4
Bunbury United	18	12	1
Joondalup City	17	10	5
North Lake Espanol	17	8	4
Western Yugal	17	8	2
University	17	7	4
Balga	18	5	5
Armada Park	17	5	4
Wanneroo British	17	5	4
Geraldton La Fiamma	14	4	4
Queens Park	17	1	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

DIVISION ONE			
*16	Peter Murphy	Swan IC	
14	Neil Blunt	Sorrento	
12	Alan McTurk	Inglewood	
	Trim Morgan	Inglewood	
11	Bobby Despotovski	Floreat Athena	
	Terry Worsfold	Swan IC	
9	Steve Bourne	Stirling Macedonia	
8	Joe Kelly	Sorrento	
	Robert Perruzza	Stirling Panthers	
7	Ian Cornthwaite	Stirling Macedonia	
6	Simon Bowman	Sorrento	
	Gerry Christie	Spearwood	
	Kevin Elliott	Spearwood	
	Garry Murray	Spearwood	
5	Andrew Chapman	Sorrento	
	Gary Lees	Stirling Macedonia	
	Dean Nicolaou	Floreat	
	Paul Strudwick	Inglewood	
	Michael Vassiliou	Bayswater City	

*Subject to appeal

Test Your Knowledge

ANSWERS	
(10) Diana Rose	
(9) Stotchov	
(8) Saudi Arabia	
(7) Raf	
(6) Jim Montgomery	
(5) Oman Blyk	
(4) Erwin Sanchez	
(3) Mario Zagalo	
(2) Antonio Carbajal	
(1) Vava	

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

NBN League Elimination rounds

STATE FIRST GRADE

Lake Macquarie.....3	Cessnock.....1
Hamilton.....3	Maitland.....2

RESERVE GRADE

Lake Macquarie.....0	Broadmeadow.....2
Hamilton.....3	Maitland.....0

UNDER 18'S

Lake Macquarie.....3	Maitland.....0
Hamilton.....2	Cessnock.....0

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

Taranga Rovers.....2	Brisbane City.....2
North Brisbane.....1	North Star.....2
Rosedale Rovers.....5	Willowburn.....0
Eastern Suburbs.....0	Coaststars.....2
Brisbane Lions.....0	Wynnum District.....0
Pine Rivers United.....2	Grange Thistle.....0

TABLE

Nerang	21	14	1	6	47	25	43
Beenleigh	21	13	3	5	64	36	42
Ipswich St Helens United	21	12	4	5	47	31	40
St Albans	21	12	1	8	36	26	37
Rocklea United	21	10	3	8	32	22	33
Acacia Ridge	21	9	4	8	33	32	31
Logan City Kings	20	9	3	8	32	30	30
Olympic United	20	7	4	9	22	32	25
Inala City United	21	7	4	10	39	57	25
Mount Gravatt	21	5	3	13	24	39	18
Souths United	21	5	3	13	28	47	18
University of Queensland	21	4	3	14	18	45	15

DIVISION THREE

Albany Creek Excelsior.....9	North Pine United.....0
Capalaba.....4	Newmarket.....0
The Gap.....5	Goodna & Districts.....2
Mitchelton.....4	Slacks Creek.....1
Redlands United.....2	Annerley Recreation.....1
Latrobe Athletic.....1	Clairvaux.....0

TABLE

Capalaba	21	17	3	1	55	17	54
Albany Creek Excelsior	21	17	1	3	66	16	52
The Gap	21	12	4	5	43	25	40
Mitchelton	21	13	1	7	37	26	40
Redlands United	21	9	2	10	27	33	29
Slacks Creek	21	8	4	9	31	26	28
Newmarket	21	8	4	9	30	33	28
Goodna & Districts	21	9	1	11	33	41	28
Annerley Recreation	21	7	3	11	27	39	24
Latrobe Athletic	21	5	4	12	25	41	19
Clairvaux	21	5	1	15	19	45	16
North Pine United	21	1	2	18	12	63	5

DIVISION FOUR

Darra United.....1	South Star.....1
Redcliffe City.....2	Loganholme.....1
Pine Hills.....1	Southside Eagles.....1
Oxley United.....0	Western Suburbs.....3
Ipswich City.....2	Samford.....2
Moggill United.....1	Brothers United.....0

TABLE

Western Suburbs	21	14	5	2	42	19	47
Moggill United	21	13	4	4	52	21	43
Darra United	21	13	3	5	46	17	42
Southside Eagles	21	12	4	5	42	13	40
Redcliffe City	21	13	1	7	53	35	40
Brothers United	21	9	4	8	41	37	31
Samford	21	8	3	10	34	40	27
South Star	21	6	6	9	31	40	24
Loganholme	21	6	4	11	28	38	22
Ipswich City	21	5	5	11	23	43	20
Pine Hills	21	2	7	12	23	46	13
Oxley United	21	1	2	18	15	81	5

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PREMIER LEAGUE

Hindmarsh proved a successful hunting ground for both the Blue Eagles and the Port Lion Pirates on Saturday, with both teams recording solid victories.

In the second semi-final, the Blue Eagles assured themselves of a grand final spot by convincingly beating second placed Raiders 3-0.

The Blue Eagles were warm favourites coming in to this game having already beaten the Raiders three times this year in the home and away series. But no one can discount the Raiders who had a solid year under the guidance of coach Jan Kierno rewarding themselves with second place in the minor premiership table.

The Raiders took the initiative early on in the game, but were not able to penetrate through the well organised Blue Eagles defence, the only real chance fell to Lemmy Vatsilas, who sprayed an over head kick just wide in the fourth minute.

It did not take long though for the minor premiers to take control, after absorbing a little pressure early on started to dominate the game and were rewarded in the 20th minute when Andrew Borghetto headed home the Blue Eagles first goal after a great cross from Corey Artone.

The Blue Eagles doubled their score in the 36th minute when a poor clearance by the Raiders defence allowed Joe Barbaro to penetrate into the box and with a good strike gave Raiders keeper Mate Maric no chance and send the Blue Eagles in to the break with a comfortable two goal lead.

The second half was dominated by the Blue Eagles who were sensing victory and they were rewarded with a third goal in the 88th minute after stunning shot by Slowimir Nowak was only parried by Maric, but Barbaro was on hand to tuck the rebound past the keeper and send the Blue Eagles into the grand final.

In the semi-final, the Port Lion Pirates had a tough time in disposing of fourth placed Salisbury Apaches 4-1.

The early play was mostly dominated by the Pirates, who were in an attacking mood, but the Apaches were the ones who opened the scoring first in the 40th minute through striker Steve Witwicki.

But the constant pressure paid off for the Pirates, who found an equaliser through Paul Ellul in the 43rd minute, sending both teams deadlocked in at the break.

In the second half the Apaches pushed the self distract button, conceding three goals, missing a crucial penalty and having four players send off.

Witwicki could have changed the tone of the game in the 54th minute, after a penalty was awarded by referee Tony Spagnoletti, but he had his attempt brilliantly saved by pirates keeper Keith Bradford.

The Pirates capitalised through that missed opportunity by adding to their score just five minutes later, when they were rewarded a penalty after Greg Mills handled the ball in his own penalty area, Mills was send off for that while Stuart McKenzie made no mistake with the spot kick.

The Pirates added to their tally just one minute later, when a shot by McKenzie cruelly deflected off an Apaches defender in to the back of the net.

The scoring was completed for the Pirates by Steve Maxwell in the 77th minute after he beat the offside trap and found him self one on one with the keeper, and he calmly slotted the ball past Andrew Allen to make it 4-1.

The game then ended in a sour note with Alby Kidd, Anthony Reeves and Steve Witwicki all being sent off for the Apaches.

Next week the Pirates will take on the Raiders in the Preliminary final and the winner will play the high flying Blue Eagles in the grand final.

STATE LEAGUE

On Sunday the Para Hills Knights took one more step closer towards the premier league, with a hard fought win against a gallant Birkalla Eagles side who played the whole second half with only 10 men.

It was Birkalla who dominated the proceedings early on and were rewarded with a 13th minute goal through youngster Sam Barbaro, who latched on a ball from Damien Counter and with a show of speed and great control easily beat two Knights defenders and tucked the ball past the Knights keeper Frank Blazevich.

That goal stunned the Knights into action who then began to take control of the game creating chance after chance and finally in the 40th minute they equalised through an own goal after a shot by Lachlan Campbell found a defenders leg and spun into the back of the net.

Then just three minutes later Birkalla was reduced to 10 men, after Chris Speisegger handled a header on the line. The penalty was put easily away by Chris Groom giving the Knights a 2-1 lead at half-time.

The second half was dominated by the Knights, but they were not able to capitalise even though Birkalla was reduced to 10 men. So the score remained at 2-1 and the Knights marched straight into the final.

In the first semi-final, Olympians led by player-coach Raymond Blair easily beat Elizabeth City 3-0.

Elizabeth with a strong wind in their backs dominated the first 10 minutes of the game, but from then on Olympians took control and easily saw out the game.

The first goal for Olympians came in the 23rd minute of the game when a Blair cross from the right was headed back in the six yard box by Steve Nalpanitidis and John Katsabis was on hand to give Olympians the lead by easily beating Eddie Mahleka in the Elizabeth goals.

The Olympians defence was never troubled all day, with outstanding sweeper John Katranis having very little to do, while the rest of the defence kept the Elizabeth strikers under control.

In next weeks preliminary final Olympians will take on Birkalla and the winner will play Para Hills Knights in the final.

COFFS HARBOUR

NORTHE COAST PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

Woolgoolga.....0	Sawtell Scorpions.....3
Urunga Raiders.....2	Port United.....3
Macleay Valley.....2	Westlawn Tigers.....0

SECOND GRADE

Woolgoolga.....1	Sawtell Scorpions.....0
Urunga Raiders.....2	Port United.....1
Macleay Valley.....1	Westlawn Tigers.....1

THIRD GRADE

Woolgoolga.....16	Sawtell Scorpions.....0
Urunga Raiders.....0	Port United.....2
Macleay Valley.....2	Westlawn Tigers.....5

DIVISION ONE

Coffs City United	17	13	2	2	46	13	41
Port United	17	10	3	4	38	21	33
Sawtell Scorpions	17	9	3	5	30	29	30
Macleay Valley Rangers	16	7	2	7	21	23	23
Urunga Raiders	17	6	4	7	29	32	22
Westlawn Tigers	17	3	2	12	27	39	11
Woolgoolga	17	3	0	14	15	47	9

DIVISION TWO

Port United	17	11	4	2	49	14	37
Coffs City United	17	10	3	1	37	22	33
Urunga Raiders	17	9	3	5	40	22	30
Sawtell Scorpions	17	7	1	9	31	35	22
Woolgoolga	17	6	3	8	25	39	21
Macleay Valley Rangers	16	4	5	7	24	29	17
Westlawn Tigers	17	1	3	13	15	61	6

THIRD GRADE

Woolgoolga	20	15	4	1	87	9	49
Westlawn Tigers	20	12	3	5	84	24	39
Port United	20	12	3	5	58	11	39
Macleay Valley Rangers	20	10	3	7	33	33	33
Coffs City United	19	9	4	6	32	23	31
Urunga Raiders	20	5	4	11	22	43	19
Sawtell Scorpions	20	3	3	14	22	99	12
Nambucca Valley	19	1	0	18	13	110	3

NORTH COAST v LISMORE

The North Coast Premier League Representative side were beaten 2-1 by Lismore District with a goal in the last minute of time, at the Coffs Harbour International Stadium on Sunday (20/8/95).

The North Coast side opened the scoring after only three minutes when Glen Bowman was up-ended in the Lismore 18-yard box, with Greg Thomas finishing accurately from the penalty spot.

North Coast had the better of the first 10 minutes and nearly went 2-up when Andrew Clark skimmed the Lismore cross bar from out wide.

In the 13th minute Lismore equalised against the run of play when Mathew Lampard finished a through-ball with a shot to the near post.

Lampard nearly put Lismore 2-up in the 23rd minute but was denied when North Coast goalkeeper, Matt Miner pulled off a brilliant save.

David Pike, for the North Coast, just missed with a left volley in the 27th minute and came close again just minutes later.

Lismore's Jim Phillips also came near in the 35th minute but saw his shot go agonisingly close after taking a deflection.

Both teams were evenly matched in the first half taking a 1-all scoreline into the break. North Coast made a substitute for the start of the second half with Shaun Bartlett coming off with 15-year-old Royce Brownlee making his senior representative debut in his place.

North Coast's Col Smith had a shot tipped over the cross bar in the opening minutes of the second stanza, then Lismore replied immediately when Phillips was on hand in the penalty box for a cross, his glancing header being well saved by Miner.

Lismore's Mathew Lampard had a shot just miss in the 51st minute. Pike again came close for the North Coast after a cross from some creative work by Thomas on the flank.

In the 42nd minute a mix up in the Lismore midfield saw North Coast's Thomas with only the goalkeeper Craig Kennedy to beat. Kennedy spread himself well and Thomas' shot hit his leg going out for a throw-in.

North Coast created the better chances in the second half and had the majority of play, but could not turn their superiority into goals.

Lismore also had chances with Mathew Bath and Darren Beardow going close. Lismore substitute Mark De Borja fired home the winning goal in the 89th minute.

Standout players for Lismore were Phillips and goalkeeper Craig Kennedy. For the North Coast, goalkeeper Matt Miner was outstanding and Col Smith had a solid game in defence.

The Lismore District U19 representative side had a 3-2 win over a combined Coffs City United side in the warm-up game.

In the North Coast Premier League Division One on Saturday, Sawtell defeated Woolgoolga 3-0, with two goals for Shaun Hone and one for Dave Armstrong making the difference between the two sides. Woolgoolga had a 1-0 win in the second division clash to keep the pressure on Sawtell for fourth spot and Woolgoolga youth grade trounced Sawtell 16-0. In other first division games, Port United secured second spot on the ladder when they downed Urunga 3-2 after the Raiders had led 2-0 at half-time. Macleay Valley Rangers jumped back into fourth spot after defeating Westlawn 2-0.

In second division Urunga downed Port United 2-1 while Macleay Valley Rangers and Westlawn played out a 1-1 draw.

In other youth grade games, Port United beat Urunga 2-0 and Westlawn defeated Macleay Valley Rangers 5-2, to keep up the race for second spot.

SERIE A

ROUNDS 1 & 18

AUGUST 27 1995 JANUARY 21 1996

Atalanta v Parma	_____
Bari v Napoli	_____
Fiorentina v Torino	_____
Inter v Vicenza	_____
Juventus v Cremonese	_____
Lazio v Piacenza	_____
Padova v Milan	_____
Sampdoria v Roma	_____
Udinese v Cagliari	_____

ROUNDS 2 & 19

SEPTEMBER 10 1995 JANUARY 28 1996

Cagliari v Lazio	_____
Cremonese v Sampdoria	_____
Milan v Udinese	_____
Napoli v Padova	_____
Parma v Inter	_____
Piacenza v Juventus	_____
Roma v Atalanta	_____
Torino v Bari	_____
Vicenza v Fiorentina	_____

ROUNDS 3 & 20

SEPTEMBER 17 1995 FEBRUARY 4 1996

Atalanta v Napoli	_____
Bari v Lazio	_____
Fiorentina v Cagliari	_____
Inter v Piacenza	_____
Juventus v Vicenza	_____
Padova v Torino	_____
Roma v Milan	_____
Sampdoria v Parma	_____
Udinese v Cremonese	_____

ROUNDS 7 & 24

OCTOBER 22 1995 MARCH 3 1996

Bari v Cagliari	_____
Cremonese v Atalanta	_____
Inter v Lazio	_____
Juventus v Padova	_____
Piacenza v Napoli	_____
Roma v Parma	_____
Sampdoria v Fiorentina	_____
Udinese v Torino	_____
Vicenza v Milan	_____

ROUNDS 8 & 25

OCTOBER 29 1995 MARCH 10 1996

Atalanta v Udinese	_____
Cagliari v Roma	_____
Fiorentina v Bari	_____
Inter v Milan	_____
Lazio v Juventus	_____
Napoli v Cremonese	_____
Padova v Sampdoria	_____
Parma v Piacenza	_____
Torino v Vicenza	_____

ROUNDS 9 & 26

NOVEMBER 5 1995 MARCH 17 1996

Bari v Atalanta	_____
Cremonese v Parma	_____
Fiorentina v Lazio	_____
Milan v Cagliari	_____
Roma v Padova	_____
Sampdoria v Inter	_____
Torino v Napoli	_____
Udinese v Juventus	_____
Vicenza v Piacenza	_____

ROUNDS 13 & 30

DECEMBER 10 1995 APRIL 14 1996

Cagliari v Atalanta	_____
Cremonese v Bari	_____
Fiorentina v Udinese	_____
Milan v Napoli	_____
Padova v Inter	_____
Parma v Lazio	_____
Roma v Vicenza	_____
Sampdoria v Juventus	_____
Torino v Piacenza	_____

ROUNDS 14 & 31

DECEMBER 17 1995 APRIL 21 1996

Atalanta v Fiorentina	_____
Bari v Parma	_____
Juventus v Inter	_____
Lazio v Sampdoria	_____
Milan v Torino	_____
Napoli v Roma	_____
Piacenza v Cremonese	_____
Udinese v Padova	_____
Vicenza v Cagliari	_____

ROUNDS 15 & 32

DECEMBER 23 1995 APRIL 28 1996

Cremonese v Torino	_____
Fiorentina v Milan	_____
Inter v Cagliari	_____
Juventus v Roma	_____
Lazio v Atalanta	_____
Padova v Piacenza	_____
Parma v Vicenza	_____
Sampdoria v Napoli	_____
Udinese v Bari	_____

FIXTURES

ROUNDS 4 & 21

SEPTEMBER 24 1995 FEBRUARY 11 1996

_____	Cagliari v Juventus	_____
_____	Cremonese v Roma	_____
_____	Lazio v Udinese	_____
_____	Milan v Atalanta	_____
_____	Napoli v Inter	_____
_____	Parma v Fiorentina	_____
_____	Piacenza v Bari	_____
_____	Torino v Sampdoria	_____
_____	Vicenza v Padova	_____

ROUNDS 5 & 22

OCTOBER 1 1995 FEBRUARY 18 1996

_____	Atalanta v Piacenza	_____
_____	Bari v Milan	_____
_____	Fiorentina v Cremonese	_____
_____	Inter v Torino	_____
_____	Juventus v Napoli	_____
_____	Padova v Parma	_____
_____	Roma v Lazio	_____
_____	Sampdoria v Cagliari	_____
_____	Udinese v Vicenza	_____

ROUNDS 6 & 23

OCTOBER 15 1995 FEBRUARY 25 1996

_____	Atalanta v Inter	_____
_____	Cagliari v Cremonese	_____
_____	Lazio v Padova	_____
_____	Milan v Juventus	_____
_____	Napoli v Fiorentina	_____
_____	Parma v Udinese	_____
_____	Piacenza v Sampdoria	_____
_____	Torino v Roma	_____
_____	Vicenza v Bari	_____

ROUNDS 10 & 27

NOVEMBER 19 1995 MARCH 24 1996

_____	Atalanta v Sampdoria	_____
_____	Cagliari v Torino	_____
_____	Inter v Udinese	_____
_____	Juventus v Fiorentina	_____
_____	Lazio v Cremonese	_____
_____	Napoli v Vicenza	_____
_____	Padova v Bari	_____
_____	Parma v Milan	_____
_____	Piacenza v Roma	_____

ROUNDS 11 & 28

NOVEMBER 26 1995 MARCH 31 1996

_____	Cagliari v Napoli	_____
_____	Cremonese v Padova	_____
_____	Fiorentina v Inter	_____
_____	Milan v Piacenza	_____
_____	Parma v Juventus	_____
_____	Roma v Bari	_____
_____	Sampdoria v Udinese	_____
_____	Torino v Atalanta	_____
_____	Vicenza v Lazio	_____

ROUNDS 12 & 29

DECEMBER 3 1995 APRIL 6 1996

_____	Atalanta v Vicenza	_____
_____	Bari v Sampdoria	_____
_____	Inter v Cremonese	_____
_____	Juventus v Torino	_____
_____	Lazio v Milan	_____
_____	Napoli v Parma	_____
_____	Padova v Fiorentina	_____
_____	Piacenza v Cagliari	_____
_____	Udinese v Roma	_____

ROUNDS 16 & 33

JANUARY 7 1996 MAY 5 1996

_____	Atalanta v Juventus	_____
_____	Bari v Inter	_____
_____	Cagliari v Padova	_____
_____	Milan v Sampdoria	_____
_____	Napoli v Lazio	_____
_____	Piacenza v Udinese	_____
_____	Roma v Fiorentina	_____
_____	Torino v Parma	_____
_____	Vicenza v Cremonese	_____

ROUNDS 17 & 34

AUGUST 14 1996 MAY 12 1996

_____	Cremonese v Milan	_____
_____	Fiorentina v Piacenza	_____
_____	Inter v Roma	_____
_____	Juventus v Bari	_____
_____	Lazio v Torino	_____
_____	Padova v Atalanta	_____
_____	Parma v Cagliari	_____
_____	Sampdoria v Vicenza	_____
_____	Udinese v Napoli	_____

SERIE A

**THE FIRST DIVISION
WILL NOT BE PLAYED ON
FOUR WEEKENDS:**

September 3:
(for the Italy v Slovenia game on the 6th).

October 8:
(for the Croatia v Italy game on the same day).

November 12:
(for the Italy v Ukraine game on the 11th and the Italy v Lithuania on the 15th).

December 31st for the end of year holiday.

COOPER'S TERRITORY

Sarah Cooper is certainly making an impact on soccer in the Northern Territory. As Australia's World Cup full-back, she is the perfect role model for girls and boys alike. Cooper is well-known in Darwin and the Territory, and as Development Officer of the NT Soccer Federation, passionately spreads the word about the world game to the youngsters of the north.

After the pressures and disappointments of the long World Cup campaign, Cooper returned home needing a break. "It was disappointing — the main aim was to qualify for the Olympics," she said.

"But we knew it would be very tough in that Group. We had to get a result in that first game, but it ended up being our worst performance. We panicked in possession — with the pace of the game, they hassled us off the ball. But we didn't disgrace ourselves. I'm still happy with the World Cup — it was a great experience."

Cooper feels perhaps a different approach may have made a difference. "We played well, especially in that last game. We went there as one of the bottom teams, we had nothing to lose. Probably we should have

gone for it more than the beginning, but we went in too cautious. Against the Americans, we just went for it. Maybe if we'd played like that from the start, things might have been different."

Cooper told how the Australians continued to fight to the end, though the dream was slipping further away. "We didn't stop till it was all over. It was more frustrating that certain teams in other Groups qualified. A lot of people have said we were unlucky not to make it. But that's how the World Cup works — if you get a bad draw you've just got to take it. But it was disappointing."

After taking a break, Cooper is now back in training. With the National Championships looming, Cooper is eager to help NT to a place in the top four, a target she dearly believes can be achieved. Women's soccer in the NT has a player base of less than a hundred.

"For the numbers we have, we should get flogged, but we don't," said Cooper. "We are improving every year, and I would love to go top four this time. We have some good talent despite the numbers."

"We have one player who has just been selected for the Australian Schoolgirls. She is not specifically a soccer player, but a gifted athlete.



Sarah Cooper: Spreading the soccer gospel in the north.

She is now playing in our senior State side. There are a few part-aboriginal girls out there who have potential. They are natural athletes and it would be great to get them playing."

"This year, we started up an Under 14's competitions for the girls. They really love it at that age level. Girls younger than that usually play with the boys. The next

step is to cater for the 14 to 18 year age group so they don't have to play up with the seniors. It's all coming on slowly."

Cooper, 25, works mainly around Darwin as the distances are so great between the main centres of NT. She has been to Alice Springs to hold a Level One coaching course and has been asked back. Katherine

has no formal soccer set-up, though Cooper hopes to get there to initiate the project.

Isolated somewhat from her Australian team-mates, Cooper doesn't regard living in Darwin as much of a disadvantage. "The weather's good up here — it's a lot easier for me to train than if I was down south," she explains. "I lived in Melbourne for four years — I know what it's like. Here I'm closer to everything and I can train 12 times a week plus fit in other things as well. The only thing missing is hard competition, but there are little things you can do to help yourself."

Those little things include playing against males. For the past three years, Cooper has trained with the men, and this year players in the Under 18's Colts. The State Team also plays in the boys Under 16's competition, with Cooper also competing in the men's indoor premier league.

As well as providing stronger opposition, playing alongside males also helps Cooper in her work. "A lot of the younger boys have seen me playing and they respect my ability. They're normally pretty good about it."

Trained as a PE and maths teacher at University in Melbourne, Cooper worked only six months in that

profession before landing the job of Development Officer for NT Touch. Cooper worked there for two years before going to NT Soccer nearly a year ago.

Arriving in Darwin from Scotland as a baby, Cooper is one of six children including four brothers. "Despite always kicking the ball around as a youngster, Cooper didn't take up the sport herself until the age of 14. "After six years in Little Athletics, you get sick of individual sport. I wanted to play in a team, so I started playing soccer and touch." Two years later she was selected in the Australian Youth Squad.

Cooper at this stage is unsure about her international future in the game. "I really don't know. It depends on what Tom (Sermanni) says. He will be talking to players about the future — I don't know what he has in mind for me."

Sure, I want to play in another World Cup, the Olympics, but all that is four years away. I don't know what I'll be doing then. If I'm still playing and enjoying it, I'll probably still

push to make the team. But I'm not sure I could train another four years at that same intensity."

Cooper was referring to the rigorous 10 months of preparation leading up to the World Cup where the demands on the players took them away for frequent long periods from home and work. She missed the recent tour to USA due to work commitments, feeling it necessary to stay home and organise the NT Championships as planned after missing so much other work time.

Coaching is another footballing avenue Cooper is pursuing along with all her other commitments. She gained her Level 2 this year and hopes to attempt her Level 3 soon. Cooper has been appointed coach of the NT Under 14 Schoolgirls Team to compete in Adelaide in a fortnight's time. She would next like to take on a junior boys representative side.

A Territorian through and through and dedicated to her endeavours in the sport, Cooper will be around in soccer for a long time yet.

ITC's big impact down south

Kevin McCormack started as South Australia's ITC Coach in February this year, and in these six months he and the program have made huge bounds in the development of the sport in this relatively small soccer State.

Of course the biggest thrill for everyone has been the recent selection of 16-year-old Dianne Alagich into the Australian Team that travelled to compete in the US Women's Cup. This is just the start of SA's resurgence into national representation believes McCormack. He has high hopes for further honours after the National Championships next month. "I think we have a couple of players who would serve well at international level," he said.

McCormack led the SA Juniors at the Nationals in Hobart last month where three of his ITC members were chosen in the Australian Junior Squad — Anna Ruotolo (13 years, forward), Jessica Halfpenny (14, forward), and Lynn White (15, goalkeeper).

The ITC Squad consists of 16 players in all, aged from 13 to 24. The eldest is Sharon Black, a former international, who with the establishment of the program has been re-enthused to work her way back up to the top. McCormack considers her a real benefit to the program.

Kristyn Swaffer, 19 and Kristy Moore, 18 are two more players about whom McCormack is enthusiastic. Moore this year was a member of Australia's winning Dallas Cup Team. "Both would really struggle to maintain a place in

national squads if not for the ITC program."

Suddenly they are putting in some excellent performances. The program has done great things for them — they have been given the opportunity, the focus and the ambition to go a lot further." Swaffer has given up two days employment and Moore has reorganised her education to concentrate more on football.

The program has the enormous benefit of support from the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI). They support the program financially, plus with facilities and resources. McCormack is based in SASI's offices, with the players having access to the weight training area, the sport psychology and nutrition departments, plus athlete career education where they can receive training in public speaking and time management.

Time management and psychology have become vital elements in the players' program. McCormack's ITC players also remain with their clubs, which for many of the players means having to sustain a very demanding schedule. With club training and now State training also in full swing, McCormack has had to cut down ITC commitments. Most have school to cope with as well.

"One player for example has five training sessions a week, a home program, plus two or three matches," says McCormack. "And it's the most talented who are under the most pressure as they have the greatest workload. Overtraining is a key issue. Up to now, we've been lucky — the

girls are still fit and enthusiastic. But it wouldn't take much to push them over the edge."

The ITC competes in the local boy's Under 16 competition to receive higher level competition. "We are very competitive and are running third at present with one round to go," said McCormack. "It exposes the girls to faster play, but I thought the boys would be better technically. The boys got a shock initially, but now they are learning from the girls." The profile of women's soccer has risen, especially in the region where the girls are playing, through regular media coverage.

McCormack has not previously coached females as such, but applied for the position after working as a Development Officer part-time for South Australia. "I worked with schoolgirls in clinics and schools and saw the girls took to the sport very easily," he said. "My feelings for the sport have improved even more since I've started. I think of them just as players now, not female or male."

With the advent of the ITC program, clubs took the view that he was taking away their best players as they wouldn't be able to commit themselves fully to the club. Some have accepted the situation, others have not. McCormack feels his relationship with the clubs is gaining strength.

The coaches contact him if they need help with training programs or problems. He is keen to establish a coaching association where local coaches can gain access to elite level coaches and education.

With Adelaide the netball capital of Australia, McCormack has to fight against that sport's stranglehold on female athletes.

"It's tough when you're up against such high profile role models as Michelle Fielke, but slowly and surely we're breaking that down. The ITC program has created so much interest, we are now gaining our own profile. Plus Dianne Alagich has been getting some great coverage in the papers and on live TV."

At just 31, McCormack still plays soccer himself. In England, he played in the Northern Premier League, the same competition from which Francis Awaritefe hails. In 1990 he was brought out as a visa player for State League outfit Cumberland United, and he has captained the SA State Team.

Director of Coaching in North Liverpool in his homeland, McCormack is a Level 3 Coach, and has been coaching since his arrival in Adelaide.

His working day will often start at 7.30am and end at 8.30 at night, but McCormack loves coaching full-time. "It's great working with the women soccer players. And it's great working with Tom Sermanni."

With his experience, I am learning a lot from him and the other ITC Coaches.

McCormack is excited about the future of the sport both in South Australia and in Australia, outlining his own ambitions. "To maintain employment in coaching — past 1996, to help Australia win a medal at the 2000 Olympics, and to raise the profile of women's soccer."

BERWICK CITY GO FOR TREBLE

Berwick City has again taken out the Victorian Premier League premiership for the umpteenth consecutive time and this year will be keen to take further honours by winning the State's first ever treble.

This season for the first time, the competition will climax with a Finals Series, and with Berwick also a finalist in the seeded Cup competition, the outstanding club has the perfect chance of taking the hat-trick. Clubs out to cause an upset to their plans are South Melbourne, Doncaster, and Melbourne Zebras. The competition this season has been seriously hampered by bad weather, forcing many cancellations including part of the much awaited Finals Series.

South Melbourne were runaway winners of the Second Division, with final positions still outstanding in the remaining three divisions.

SA WOMEN INVADE HINDMARSH

Cup Finals night, tomorrow (Wednesday, August 23rd), will see South Australia's women soccer players take over the hallowed turf of Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide.

At 8pm, current Cup holders Sturt Marion front up to Adelaide City in a do or die contest for the First Division Balletti Cup. Sturt Marion will be desperate to retain the trophy, whilst Adelaide City will throw their immense skill, speed and determination at the Blues in their efforts to win the Cup for the first time.

The curtainraiser to this battle begins at 6.30pm when Cumberland Vixens play Stirling for honours in the Odyssey Carpets Reserve Cup. Only one point separates these teams at the top of the Third Division table, ensuring a hard fought, entertaining game.

Australian and State representative stars of the calibre of Kristyn Swaffer, (Adelaide City), Sharon Black and Lynn White, (Sturt Marion), Jessica Halfpenny, Stirling and Rebecca Crilley, (Cumberland), will show off their brilliant ball skills on the night.

Admission to this great feast of soccer entertainment is only \$2. Children Under 15 admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Croatia

ROUND 1

	AUG 13	NOV 5
Varteks v Sibenik	3	1
Istra v Cibalia	0	0
Rijeka v Zagreb	1	2
Croatia v Marsonia	5	0
Osijek v Segesta	4	0
Hajduk v Inker	3	1

ROUND 2

	AUG 26	NOV 12
Sibenik v Inker	---	---
Segesta v Hajduk	---	---
Zagreb v Osijek	---	---
Marsonia v Rijeka	---	---
Cibalia v Croatia	---	---
Varteks v Istra	---	---

ROUND 3

	AUG 27	NOV 18
Istra v Sibenik	---	---
Croatia v Varteks	---	---
Rijeka v Cibalia	---	---
Osijek v Marsonia	---	---
Hajduk v Zagreb	---	---
Inker v Segesta	---	---

ROUND 4

	SEPT 3	NOV 26
Sibenik v Segesta	---	---
Zagreb v Inker	---	---
Marsonia v Hajduk	---	---
Cibalia v Osijek	---	---
Varteks v Rijeka	---	---
Istra v Croatia	---	---

ROUND 5

	SEPT 17	DEC 1
Croatia v Sibenik	---	---
Rijeka v Istra	---	---
Osijek v Varteks	---	---
Hajduk v Cibalia	---	---
Inker v Marsonia	---	---
Segesta v Zagreb	---	---

ROUND 6

	SEPT 24	DEC 8
Sibenik v Zagreb	---	---
Marsonia v Segesta	---	---
Cibalia v Inker	---	---
Varteks v Hajduk	---	---
Istra v Osijek	---	---
Croatia v Rijeka	---	---

ROUND 7

	SEPT 27	DEC 17
Rijeka v Sibenik	---	---
Osijek v Croatia	---	---
Hajduk v Istra	---	---
Inker v Varteks	---	---
Segesta v Cibalia	---	---
Zagreb v Marsonia	---	---

ROUND 8

	OCT 1	DEC 24
Sibenik v Marsonia	---	---
Cibalia v Zagreb	---	---
Varteks v Segesta	---	---
Istra v Inker	---	---
Croatia v Hajduk	---	---
Rijeka v Osijek	---	---

ROUND 9

	OCT 8	FEB 25
Osijek v Sibenik	---	---
Hajduk v Rijeka	---	---
Inker v Croatia	---	---
Segesta v Istra	---	---
Zagreb v Varteks	---	---
Marsonia v Cibalia	---	---

ROUND 10

	OCT 22	MAR 1
Sibenik v Cibalia	---	---
Varteks v Marsonia	---	---
Istra v Zagreb	---	---
Croatia v Segesta	---	---
Rijeka v Inker	---	---
Hajduk v Osijek	---	---

ROUND 11

	OCT 29	MAR 10
Hajduk v Sibenik	---	---
Inker v Osijek	---	---
Segesta v Rijeka	---	---
Zagreb v Croatia	---	---
Marsonia v Istra	---	---
Cibalia v Varteks	---	---

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SENIOR

GROUP 1

In Trabzon, Turkey: Slovakia 1 (Yancula 60) bt Azerbaijan 0. HT: 0-0. Crowd: 1,000.
In France: France 1 (Youri Djorkaeff 86) drew with Poland 1 (Andrzej Juskowiak 35). HT 0-1. Crowd: 40,426.

	7	5	2	0	15	6	17
Romania	7	5	2	0	15	6	17
France	7	2	5	0	7	1	11
Poland	7	3	2	2	13	8	11
Israel	7	2	3	2	11	10	9
Slovakia	7	2	2	3	9	15	8
Azerbaijan	7	0	0	7	2	17	0

Remaining matches: Sept 6 - France v Azerbaijan, Slovakia v Israel, Poland v Romania, Oct 11 - Romania v France, Israel v Azerbaijan, Slovakia v Poland, Nov 15 - Slovakia v Romania, Azerbaijan v Poland, France v Israel
Note: Azerbaijan playing all their home matches in Trabzon, Turkey.

GROUP 3

In Iceland: Switzerland 2 (Adriene Knup 3, Qubilay Purkylmae 13) bt Iceland 0. HT: 2-0. Crowd: 9,034.

	6	4	1	1	12	7	13
Switzerland	6	4	1	1	12	7	13
Turkey	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Sweden	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Hungary	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Iceland	6	1	1	4	3	11	4

Next matches: Sept 6 - Sweden v Switzerland, Turkey v Hungary, Oct 11 - Iceland v Turkey, Switzerland v Hungary, Nov 11 - Hungary v Iceland, Nov 15 - Sweden v Turkey.

GROUP 2

In Armenia: Denmark 2 (Michael Laudrup 33, Allan Nielsen 46) bt Armenia 0. HT: 1-0. Crowd: 22,000

	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Spain	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Denmark	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
Belgium	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Macedonia	7	1	3	3	7	12	6
Cyprus	7	1	2	4	4	12	5
Armenia	7	0	2	5	2	11	2

Next matches: Sept 6 - Belgium v Denmark, Spain v Cyprus, Macedonia v Armenia.

GROUP 4

In Estonia: Lithuania 1 (Darius Maciulevicius 49th) bt Estonia 0. HT: 0-0. Crowd: 1,500

	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Croatia	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Lithuania	7	4	1	2	7	5	13
Ukraine	7	3	1	3	5	8	10
Slovenia	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Estonia	8	0	0	8	2	19	0

Remaining matches: Sept 3 - Croatia v Estonia, Sept 6 - Italy v Slovenia, Lithuania v Ukraine, Oct 8 - Croatia v Italy, Oct 11 - Slovenia v Ukraine, Lithuania v Estonia, Nov 11 - Italy v Ukraine, Nov 15 - Slovenia v Croatia, Italy v Lithuania

GROUP 5

In Norway: Norway 1 (Henning Berg 27th) drew with Czech Republic 1 (Jan Suchoparek 85th). HT: 1-0. Crowd: 22,054

	8	6	2	0	17	2	20
Norway	8	6	2	0	17	2	20
Czech Republic	7	3	3	1	14	6	12
Netherlands	7	3	2	2	15	5	11
Belarus	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Luxembourg	7	2	0	5	2	18	6
Malta	7	0	2	5	2	15	2

Remaining matches: Sept 6 - Czech Republic v Norway, Luxembourg v Malta, Netherlands v Belarus, Oct 7 - Belarus v Czech Republic, Oct 11 - Malta v Netherlands, Luxembourg v Belarus, Nov 12 - Malta v Belarus, Nov 15 - Czech Republic v Luxembourg, Netherlands v Norway

GROUP 6

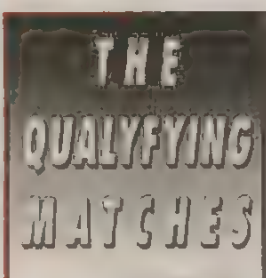
In Liechtenstein: Portugal beat Liechtenstein 7-0 (halftime 3-0).

Scorers: Oliveira Domingos (25th), Joao Santos Paulinho (33rd), Rui Costa (41st, 71st pen), Paulo Alves (67th, 73rd, 90th)
Attendance: 3,500

In Latvia: Latvia 3 (Vitas Rimkus 13, 60, Armands Zeiberlins 87) bt Austria 2 (Anton Polster 69, Dieter Ramusch 79). HT: 1-0. Crowd: 2,600.

EUROPEAN championship

Polish coach salutes heroic goalkeeper



GROUP 1

FRANCE 1 POLAND 1

Polish coach Henryk Apostel paid tribute to the heroics of keeper Andrzej Wozniak following a 1-1 draw against France.

Andrzej Wozniak's 35th minute opportunist goal was followed by Youri Djorkaeff's 87th minute equaliser but had Wozniak not excelled, France could have scored another three.

Apostel said afterwards: "I would like to thank all my players for the match they played, but particularly my keeper Wozniak, for whom it was a great day."

First-choice keeper Maciej Szczesny was ill and Apostel had to do a late switch he did not regret.

Although nowhere near as dramatic as the last minute loss to Bulgaria in November 1993 to prevent World Cup qualification, the result suggests France's poor major championship run may continue.

France has not qualified for the last two World Cups after two semi-final appearances and did poorly in the 1992 European championships in Sweden.

Yet France, still in second spot ahead of Poland on goal difference, had the visitors under pressure for virtually the whole match.

AZERBAIJAN 0 SLOVAKIA 1

A 60th minute goal by Tibor Jancula gave Slovakia a 1-0 victory over Azerbaijan.

Jancula headed the ball home from a corner in the second half, sealing the victory for Slovakia and leaving Azerbaijan at the bottom of the group without a win.

The win lifts Slovakia to eight points from seven matches, but it is still only one place above the Azeri's and has no chance of qualifying for the finals in England next year.

The game was played in Trabzon, a Black Sea coastal town, after European governing body UEFA ordered that Azerbaijan play its home qualifying matches at a neutral site because of civil unrest in the former Soviet republic.



Michael Laudrup: Headed home the opening goal for Denmark.

GROUP 2

ARMENIA 0 DENMARK 2

A spectacular, long-range goal from debutant Allan Nielsen within seconds of coming on as substitute lifted Denmark to a 2-0 victory over Armenia.

The win hoisted Denmark to second in group two, three points ahead of Belgium, but five behind runaway leader Spain.

Nielsen came off the bench at half-time and within seconds of the re-start raced down the left wing before firing in a swerving 30-metre effort which totally deceived Armenian goalkeeper Armen Petrosyan.

Michael Laudrup had opened the scoring in the 33rd minute when he headed home a right-wing cross from fellow striker Mikkel Bech.

The soaring temperatures and humidity made life difficult for the

Danes, still smarting from draws in Macedonia and Cyprus.

But they had little trouble against an Armenian side who were spared a heavier defeat by the good work of Petrosyan in goal.

GROUP 4

ESTONIA 0 LITHUANIA 1

Lithuania beat Estonia 1-0 in a lacklustre Group 4 match.

Lithuania easily outplayed Estonia, but a stubborn defence by the home team kept the game scoreless in the first half.

Lithuania's winner came four minutes into the second half when striker Darius Maciulevicius drove the ball past Estonian goalkeeper Mart Poom from two metres out.

Estonian forward Marko Kristal missed a perfect chance to equalise in the final minutes of the game.

Poom, the only Estonian playing professionally in

SENIOR

	7	6	0	1	24	5	18
Portugal	7	6	0	1	24	5	18
Ireland	7	4	2	1	14	4	14
Austria	7	4	0	3	22	7	12
Northern Ireland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Latvia	8	3	0	5	9	18	9
Liechtenstein	8	0	1	7	1	35	1

Remaining matches: Sept 3 - Portugal v Northern Ireland, Sept 6 - Austria v Ireland, Latvia v Liechtenstein, Oct 11 - Ireland v Latvia, Austria v Portugal, Liechtenstein v Northern Ireland, Nov 15 - Portugal v Ireland, Northern Ireland v Austria

GROUP 8

In Finland: Russia 6 (Vassili Koukov 32 49, Valeri Karpine 40, Dmitri Radchenko 43, Igor Kolyanov 67 69) bt Finland 0. Halftime 3-0. Crowd: 14,200.

In Scotland: Scotland 1 (Ally McCoist 72) bt Greece 0. HT: 0-0. Crowd: 34,910.

	7	5	2	0	24	1	17
Russia	7	5	2	0	24	1	17
Scotland	8	5	2	1	13	3	17
Finland	8	5	0	3	17	14	15
Greece	7	4	0	3	13	7	12
Faroe Islands	7	1	0	6	5	24	3
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	24	0

Remaining fixtures: Sept 6 - Scotland v Finland, Faroe Islands v Russia, San Marino v Greece, Oct 11 - San Marino v Faroe Islands, Russia v Greece, Nov 15 - Scotland v San Marino, Russia v Finland, Greece v Faroe Islands

UNDER 21

GROUP 1

In France: France beat Poland 4-1 (halftime 2-1)
Scorers: France - Florent Laville (18th, Robert Pires (43rd, 82nd), Vikash Dhorasoo (61st).
 Poland - Krzysztof Ratajczyk (24th).
 Attendance - 1,500.

TABLE

France	7	4	2	1	17	3	14
Romania	7	4	2	1	13	4	14
Poland	7	4	1	2	12	11	13
Israel	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
Slovakia	7	2	1	4	4	7	7
Azerbaijan	7	1	0	6	4	25	3

Remaining matches: Sept 5 - Poland v Romania, Slovakia v Israel, Sept 6 - France v Azerbaijan, Oct 10 - Israel v Azerbaijan, Slovakia v Poland, Oct 11 - Romania v France, Nov 14 - Azerbaijan v Poland, Slovakia v Romania, Nov 15 - France v Israel.

GROUP 2

In Armenia: Denmark beat Armenia 3-2 (halftime 2-1)
Scorers: Armenia - Aram Vuskanian (24th minute), Arthur Kocharian (89th)
 Denmark - Michael Nonbo (39th), Martin Joergensen (43rd), John Dahl Tomasson (84th)
 Attendance: 550

TABLE

Spain	7	5	2	0	19	4	17
Belgium	7	4	2	1	20	7	14
Denmark	7	4	0	3	20	12	12
Macedonia	7	3	0	4	11	18	9
Cyprus	7	2	0	5	5	19	6
Armenia	7	1	0	6	6	21	3

Next matches: Sept 5 - Belgium v Denmark, Macedonia v Armenia.

GROUP 3

In Iceland: Switzerland beat Iceland 4-2 (halftime 2-1)
Scorers: Iceland - Sigurvin Olafsson, Hermann Hreidarson.

Switzerland - Petur Marteinsson (own goal), Markus Brunner, Patrick de Napoli (2)
 Attendance - 300

TABLE

Hungary	5	4	1	0	7	3	13
Sweden	6	3	1	2	8	3	10
Turkey	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Switzerland	6	2	1	3	7	12	7
Iceland	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Remaining matches: Sept 5 - Sweden v Switzerland, Turkey v Hungary, Oct 10 - Iceland v Turkey, Switzerland v Hungary, Nov 10 - Hungary v Iceland, Nov 14 - Sweden v Turkey.

GROUP 4

In Estonia: Lithuania beat Estonia 5-0 (halftime 2-0)

Scorers: Edgar Jankauskas (21st, 27th pen), Donatas Vencevicius (54th pen, 79th) Andre Oper (85th, own goal)
 Attendance: 200

TABLE

Slovenia	7	5	1	1	15	4	16
Ukraine	7	5	1	1	15	7	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	17	5	13
Croatia	7	4	1	2	8	6	13
Lithuania	7	1	0	6	8	13	3
Estonia	8	0	0	8	5	33	0

Remaining matches: Sept 2 - Croatia v Estonia, Sept 5 - Lithuania v Ukraine, Sept 7 - Italy v Slovenia, Oct 5 - Croatia v Italy, Oct 10 - Lithuania v Estonia, Slovenia v Ukraine, Nov 10 - Italy v Ukraine, Nov 14 - Slovenia v Croatia, Nov 16 - Italy v Lithuania.

GROUP 5

In Norway: The Czech Republic beat Norway 4-3 (halftime 2-2)

Scorers: Norway - Tore Andre Flo (20th), Steffen Iversen (38th), Tommy Larsen (50th, penalty)
 Czech Republic - Richard Dostalek (37th), Vratislav Lokvenc (39th and 56th), Tomas Galasek (52nd, penalty).
 Attendance: 3,857

TABLE

Norway	8	6	0	2	29	10	18
Czech Republic	7	5	2	0	25	7	17
Belarus	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Netherlands	7	3	2	2	16	8	11
Malta	7	1	0	6	3	22	3
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	0	31	0

EUROPEAN championship

Europe compared to Lithuania's six, kept the Lithuanians from a big win with several impressive saves in the second half.

Lithuania retains its third place position in Group 4, behind Croatia and Italy.

Estonia remains in last place.

GROUP 5

NORWAY 1 CZECH REPUBLIC 1

Norway all but secured a place in next year's European championship finals by holding the Czech Republic to a 1-1 draw in a group five qualifier.

The Czechs kept alive their hopes of a berth in the finals by walking away with one point to reach with three qualifying matches left.

But Norway, eight points clear of the Czechs in the standings, now need only one more point from two matches to go to the finals in England.

Norwegian coach Egil "Drillo" Olsen had said before the match he believed the Czechs would play a defensive game but the visitors stunned the home side with a strong opening and kept up the pressure with three good scoring chances in the first 20 minutes.

The Norwegians, cheered on by a near-capacity crowd of 22,054, fought back fiercely and took command with a 27th minute goal by Henning Berg.

Jostein Flo headed the ball to Berg who lunged forward and rolled the ball past Czech goalkeeper Petr Kouba.

Norway continued to storm through the Czech defence early in the second half, creating five superb scoring chances within seven minutes, but Kouba produced some good saves and was helped by luck when Flo hit the post.

Norway tired after the 70th minute and the Czechs launched an all-out attack for the equaliser. It came five minutes from time when Jan Suchoparek scored from close range on a dazzling cross from Martin Frydek which wrong-footed goalkeeper Erik Thorsvedt.

Olsen said: "In two away matches I would be very surprised if we failed to grab one point. We are so strong on the defence that it should work out. In our away match against the Czechs we won't play much differently from tonight."

Norway meet the Czechs again on September 6 and in their final qualifier face the Netherlands, who have 11 points.



Ally McCoist: Scored for Scotland with his first touch of the ball.

GROUP 6

LATVIA 3 AUSTRIA 2

Republic of Ireland boss Jack Charlton wore the smile of a winner as he left Riga last week following Latvia's sensational 3-2 victory in the crucial Group 6 European tie against Austria.

"Full marks to the Latvians — they have given the Republic of Ireland a tremendous boost with this victory," said Charlton.

"There are still an awful lot of games to be played and a lot of work to be done."

"But the important thing is that we are still two points ahead of the Austrians and both nations have three matches to play."

"I always hoped that someone would do us a favour. And that's exactly what happened tonight."

"It makes up for the disappointment of our end of season scoreless draw against Liechtenstein and then the 3-1 defeat by the Austrians in Dublin in June."

Portugal heads Group 6 on 18 points, followed by Ireland on 14, Austria 12 and Northern Ireland 10.

All have three matches to play.

GROUP 8

FINLAND 0 RUSSIA 6

Two goals apiece from Vassili Koukov and Igor Kolyanov helped Russia trounce Finland 6-0.

Russia now takes over from Finland at the top of group eight with 17 points from seven matches. It has a

game in hand over the Finns, who have 15 points.

Russia almost claimed a seventh goal in the last minute, but goalkeeper Kari Laukkanen just managed to parry a header from Andrei Kanchelskis, who had come on as a 54th minute substitute.

It would have given the Ukrainian some satisfaction from a troubled day which had earlier seen his English club Manchester United call off his planned transfer to premier league rivals Everton.

Russia's patient build-ups and accurate passing gave the Finnish defence problems from the start, but the visitors had to wait until the 33rd minute for an opening goal.

Striker Kolyanov, who plays for Foggia in Italy, beat two defenders before playing the ball to Spartak Moscow midfielder Koukov to score from close range.

Another midfield player, Valeri Karpine, scored the second in the 40th minute with a shot from outside the penalty area.

Three minutes later striker Dimitri Radchenko put his side three ahead when he punished poor defensive play by the Finns.

Finland was without injured striker Jari Litmanen of European champions Ajax Amsterdam, but it was shaky defence which proved its downfall.

Koukov's second goal, a powerful long-range shot from another Kolyanov pass, came four minutes into the second half.

Kolyanov made it five in the 67th minute and added another two minutes later as he glanced in a header from a free-kick by Alexandre Mostovoi.

SCOTLAND 1 GREECE 0

Striker Ally McCoist burst back on to the international scene with a goal from his

first touch of the ball to earn Scotland a 1-0 win over Greece and keep it on course for next year's European championship finals.

McCoist, playing in an international for the first time in 28 months since breaking his leg against Portugal, was sent on as a second-half substitute.

Within 60 seconds he broke the deadlock by guiding a header past goalkeeper Ilias Atmatzidis for the only goal of the match to give the Scots a share of the group eight lead with Russia.

It was sweet revenge for Scotland, which suffered its only defeat in the group so far to a controversial penalty in Athens last December.

Scotland now has 17 points from eight matches, the same as Russia which has a game in hand.

But with its two remaining matches home fixtures against Finland and San Marino it should be confident of claiming one of the group's two places in the finals.

Finland is in third place, two points behind after eight games, with Greece five points behind the leaders but with a game in hand.

Both sides went close to scoring before McCoist settled the affair, but fine saves by Atmatzidis and Scotland goalkeeper Jim Leighton, showing his reflexes are still superb at 37-years of age, had kept the score sheet clean.

UNDER 21

Remaining matches: Sept 5 - Luxembourg v Malta, Netherlands v Belarus, Czech Republic v Norway, Oct 6 - Belarus v Czech Republic, Oct 10 - Luxembourg v Belarus, Malta v Netherlands, Nov 11 - Malta v Belarus, Nov 14 - Netherlands v Norway, Czech Republic v Luxembourg.

GROUP 6

In Latvia: Austria beat Latvia 2-0 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers: Harold Czerny (29th, 39th)
 Attendance: 900

TABLE

England	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
Portugal	5	3	2	0	8	1	11
Ireland	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Austria	5	1	1	3	3	8	3
Latvia	7	0	2	5	1	13	1

Remaining matches: Sept 2 - Portugal v England, Sept 5 - Austria v Ireland, Oct 10 - Austria v Portugal, Ireland v Latvia, Nov 14 - England v Austria, Portugal v Ireland

GROUP 8

In Scotland: Scotland beat Greece 3-0 (halftime 1-0)

Scorers: Jackie McNamara (16th), Andy Liddell (58th pen), Simon Donnelly (68th)
 Attendance: 2,517

TABLE

Finland	6	5	1	0	17	4	16
Scotland	6	5	0	1	10	4	15
Russia	6	3	1	2	14	5	10
Greece	6	1	0	5	8	11	3
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	25	0

Remaining matches: Sept 5 - San Marino v Greece, Sept 6 - Scotland v Finland, Oct 10 - Russia v Greece, Nov 14 - Scotland v San Marino, Russia v Finland.

In Finland: Finland and Russia drew 1-1 (halftime 1-0)

Scorers: Finland - Joonas Kolkka (15th min)
 Russia - Valeri Ketshinov (75th)
 Attendance: 4,300

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovlec

PROSINECKI MANIA

Croatian international midfielder, Robert Prosinecki has once again captured the hearts of the Spanish fans. Last year he played on loan for Real Oviedo from Real Madrid and really showed he is still a world class footballer. Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff wasted no time in signing the 27-year-old Croat after many critics in Spain believed he was the best player of the season.

Barcelona fans have gone mad over Prosinecki and follow him wherever he goes. Without even kicking a ball for Barcelona the fans are already wearing T-shirts with his name and photo printed on them. The man they call "El Croatia" is set to become one of the all time greats.

In the new season, Prosinecki will wear the unfamiliar No.21 on his jersey.

He said he chose 21 because his number is unusually seven so he multiplied it by three. He was offered the No.10 but said no.

Spanish midfielder Guardiola will partner Robert Prosinecki in the midfield while the attack will consist of Portuguese international Luis Figo, Bosnian Meho Kodro and Spaniard Jordi Cruyff.

The Barcelona team look set for great things but there is no room in the starting line up for Romanian Popescu or young Croatian Goran Vucevic.

Goran Vucevic will most likely become the understudy to Robert Prosinecki and Luis Figo. Vucevic is still only 23 so he has plenty of years ahead of him to break into the Barcelona squad.



WHERE'S SUKER GOING?

Davor Suker looks set to stay with Seville who will play in the Spanish Second Division.

The man the Spanish call 'Superman' was put up for sale, but his price tag of over \$16 million was just too much for many clubs.

Italian clubs lined up when Davor Suker scored two goals against Italy in Croatia's 2-1 win in the Euro '96 qualifier.

Inter Milan was the front runner as was

Sampdoria but both opted on cheaper imports.

Lazio didn't sell Signori or Boksic so it didn't have the money to buy Suker. AC Milan could not buy him under new rules over non ex players.

English clubs were also interested and Liverpool, Arsenal and Newcastle all made bids for the Croat but Seville were not happy with the price. Now all three clubs have bought new stars and they

don't need Davor Suker.

Seville, who will play in the UEFA Cup next season think that without Suker they have no chance of advancing. So they are determined to keep him.

An English magazine "Club Europe" voted Davor Suker fourth as player of the season behind Cantona, Klinsmann and Vialli. All this is due to scoring 23 goals in 30 matches for Seville as well as seven goals in eight matches for Croatia.

ZORAN BAN ON LOAN

It seems Juventus are still wandering if they will keep 21-year-old Croatian Zoran Ban in the squad or loan him out to a newly promoted Serie A team.

Ban has already played for Juventus.

When he was 19, he played half a season before they loaned him out to Portuguese club Belenenses.

In Portugal he was a big hit so Juventus took him back but with the current squad it would be hard for him to keep out Portuguese star Sousa or Frenchman Deschamps.

Udinese and Vicenza have expressed interest in the Croat but both want to buy him but Juventus is not interested in a sale - just a year loan.

The clubs are negotiating now and nothing is final.

Interesting to note Zvonimir Boban also spent a year on loan at Bari before he went to AC Milan.

The loan deal helps struggling clubs but also gives some players a taste of Serie A before they start playing for an elite club.

ADZIC LEAVES HERCULES

The Croatian midfielder, and former

Melbourne Croatia and Dinamo Zagreb player is set to leave Spanish outfit Hercules Alicante.

He said with new Croat signing Janko Jankovic from Real Oviedo and other Croats Josip Visnjic and international Dubravko Davlicic in the team, he will find it hard to make the starting 11.

Now that Adzic has gained his release from the Spanish Club, Dinamo (Croatia) Zagreb look set to sign him but another Croatian team, Segesta are also interested.

Mirko Bazic if your reading this, get on the phone and buy him. Australia needs players like him as do the Melbourne Knights.

HAJDUK KEEP STIMAC

Hajduk Split have won the war with Italian Club Vicenza for Igor Stimac. Now that the mess has been cleared up Stimac can focus on captaining his team into Europe.

Hajduk need to play Panathinaikos in Rijeka (FIUME) which is near the Italian border, after a draw in Greece they look good and should be able to beat the Greeks in the next match. Of concern to Australian fans is that Steve Horvat is a regular in defence and Josip Skoko is on the bench for Hajduk.



UNDER-17 WORLD CUP

La Paglia's dismissal the key in Latin derby

Brazil hammered arch-rival Argentina 3-0 to reach the final of the world Under 17 championship where it will face Ghana, which beat surprise team Oman in the other semi-final.

Ghana's 3-1 win ended a heroic run by the underdogs from Oman, who had previously eliminated Nigeria and held Brazil to a draw in a first round group match.

Brazil scored all its goals in the last 20 minutes after Argentina's top player Cesar La Paglia had been sent off for a second bookable

offence in the 65th minute.

The game hinged on the dismissal as Argentina had outclassed its South American neighbour for much of the first half and the early part of the second but capitulated after La Paglia's departure.

Rodrigo opened the scoring for Brazil in the 73rd minute with an individual goal, while Marcelo Rocha and Fabio do Nascimento both scored in the last three minutes as the Argentine defence capitulated.

In the other semi-final, played in Portoviejo, Ghana did most of the first-half

attacking and opened the scoring seven minutes before half-time when Joseph Ansaah scored with a powerful long-range effort.

Kamara Dini increased Ghana's lead in the 54th minute but 11 minutes later Oman pulled a goal back when Mohammed Al Kathiri scored direct from a corner.

But Ghana always looked more powerful and Abu Iddrisu restored their two-goal advantage in the 72nd minute, scoring from close range.

Ghana beat Oman 3-1 (halftime 1-0) in a world

under-17 championship semi-final.

Scorers: Ghana - Joseph Ansaah (38th minute), Kamara Dini (54th), Abu Iddrisu (72nd)
Oman - Mohammed Al Kathiri (65th)
Attendance: 10,000

Brazil beat Argentina 3-0 (halftime 0-0) in a world under-17 championship semi-final.

Scorers: Rodrigo (73rd minute), Marcelo Rocha (87th), Fabio do Nascimento (90th).
Attendance: 8,000

Ghana too good for Brazilians

Ghana beat Brazil 3-2 in the final of the world under-17 championship yesterday morning (Monday) to win the competition for the second time.

Playing with verve and style, Ghana, champions in 1991, took a two-goal lead in the first half but had to survive a late Brazilian recovery before claiming the title.

Brazil, aiming to become the first South American side to win the tournament since it began in 1985, created the better chances early on but fell behind in the 39th minute.

Brazil goalkeeper Julio Espindola failed to hold a shot by Ghana right back Patrick Allotey and Emmanuel Bentil scored from the rebound.

Worse was to come for Brazil when Ghana midfielder Abu Iddrisu scored five minutes later with a powerful drive from 25 metres to give the Africans a two-goal halftime lead.

Brazil pulled a goal back through Juan Santos two minutes into the second half but one minute later Bentil scored another goal from close range to restore the two-goal lead.

Ghana spent the next half hour stroking the ball around in midfield but relaxed towards the end and allowed Brazil back into the game.

Brazil struck the crossbar in one attack and pulled a goal back in the 90th minute with a superbly-taken individual effort by Marco Antonio Freitas but Ghana held on for the title.

Ghana beat Brazil 3-2 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers: Ghana - Emmanuel Bentil (39th and 48th minute), Abu Idrissu (44th). Brazil - Juan Santos (47th), Marco Antonio Freitas (90th)
Attendance: 10,000

3rd & 4th Play-off: Argentina 2 Oman 0.

Ian Wright rescues the new Arsenal

Dennis Bergkamp's Arsenal showed touches of the soccer new manager Bruce Rioch wants them to play but needed an Ian Wright goal in the traditional Highbury mould to snatch an equaliser early yesterday morning (Monday) against Middlesbrough.

Nick Barmby, Boro's club-record \$A11.12 million capture from Arsenal's arch-rival Tottenham Hotspur, stunned the Highbury crowd when he put his new side ahead after half an hour of the teams' opening premier league match of the season.

Barmby ran on to a neat back-heel from Norway international Jan-Aage Fjortoft to score from a tight angle.

But goal machine Wright, Arsenal's leading scorer last season with 31 strikes, pulled the teams level within five minutes.

Midfielder Ray Parlour fought for and won the ball on the right goalline and hit a weighted cross which the veteran England striker rose to meet with a fine header that beat former Arsenal 'keeper Allan Miller.

Middlesbrough, which won the first division title last season, was strong in defence and Arsenal's second-half domination, including a dozen corners, counted for nothing but near misses. Arsenal showed promise despite a disappointing debut by England captain Platt, but could not find the break it needed. Miller, understudy to England goalkeeper David Seaman at Arsenal before his 1994 move to Middlesbrough, pulled off two brilliant saves from Bergkamp and an even better tip-over from a Wright header in the dying minutes. Bergkamp was consistently forced to drop deep and roam wide to find space and possession.

Paul Merson's lob from 25m two minutes from half time almost gave Arsenal the lead as it cleared the crossbar by inches, with Miller well beaten.

But the goalkeeper deserved his escape after a thrilling save earlier to deny Merson's bouncing volley from Bergkamp's shrewdly-judged cross to the far post.

Arsenal stepped up a gear at the start of the second half and the visiting team was fully stretched to survive some sharp attacks led by Bergkamp and Merson. Middlesbrough defender Neil Cox went close to scoring in a rare second half counter-attack, moving upfield with a muscular solo run, only to drag his shot across the goalmouth and wide.

GULLIT SATISFIES CHELSEA FAITHFUL

England coach Terry Venables made a significant choice going to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground last weekend for the first premier league outing of the season.

Never mind the only 0-0 draw or the fact that most of the eight other matches featured more players with a certain or possible England call-up than Chelsea's home game against Everton.

Venables is keen to see a coaching revolution in England and believes former England star Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, can set an example.

Accordingly, he was at Stamford Bridge to see how Chelsea played in its first league match with Hoddle's new signing, Dutch master Ruud Gullit, as sweeper.

"Let's see if we can lead ourselves into a new era," Venables, who is preparing England to host the European championship finals next year, said recently. "I want every idea to improve the game given an airing...and if one out of a 100 improves the product, then it's been worthwhile."

"What we will have done is be progressive. The Dutch came over to observe Liverpool in the '80s. They thought they worked out the secret, but they didn't stop there. They added more to it."

Gullit, who played as a sweeper in his early years in the Dutch league before becoming one of the world's deadliest forwards at AC



Ruud Gullit: Glenn Hoddle said of his star player "He sees everything so much more clearly than anyone else."

Milan, is back at the back for Chelsea.

"The pace of the game has got to be dictated from the back — whether it's slow or quick," Venables said.

"And when it's not possible to get the ball

forward quickly we have to keep it until we find our players strategically placed to go forward."

Hoddle said Gullit had dispelled doubts about his fitness despite a history of knee trouble.

"If there were any doubts about his fitness levels he answered them," Hoddle said.

Gullit performed admirably as sweeper when Chelsea were under first-half pressure and still found the

energy to move forward to create Chelsea's best chance in the last 10 minutes.

"He sees everything so much more clearly than anyone else and some of his passes were excellent," Hoddle said. "He makes decisions for other players and gets other people making runs."

Gullit said: "Chelsea played some good football and the fans seemed to be happy, but we have to work hard. It was a good game for us against the F.A. Cup winners to see how far we have come."

"I thought we had 60 percent of the game and could have won but there were no complaints in the end with a draw."

Peter Osgood, centre-forward in the brilliant Chelsea side who won the 1971 European Cup Winners' Cup, the club's last trophy, believes Gullit's signing could help them regain their stature of 25 years ago.

"What we need is a player like Alan Hudson, who would take the game by the scruff of the neck," said Osgood in a radio interview, recalling the playmaker of the Chelsea side of the early 1970s.

Shearer accused of manipulating referees

Queens Park Rangers soccer defender David Bardsley found himself in trouble with the Referees Association last weekend after he accused Blackburn striker Alan Shearer of "manipulating" referees.

Bardsley was furious at Shearer's fifth-minute penalty winner for the premier league champion after referee Alan Wilkie ruled the England representative had been bundled over as Stuart Ripley's cross came in.

Referees Association spokesman Pat Partridge said: "There are enough people out there willing to have a go at football without us having criticism like this within the game."

"We don't need this sort

of comment. It is so unnecessary. Referees have enough on their plate and I am sure Alan Wilkie made an honest decision."

"Referees have to think on their feet. They don't have the benefit of video cameras and I hope they never will do."

"Everybody is entitled to their opinion but if David Bardsley has a grievance about the referee he should go through the appropriate panels."

Wilkie maintained Bardsley had put his shoulder into Shearer's back but the player pleaded his innocence.

Bardsley said: "Shearer is great at manipulating referees especially here and that is what he did today (Saturday). It is like the old

Liverpool scene when they got penalties."

"We both ran into the box and collided. What I am saying is that he took a dive off me. I have been around long enough to know you don't grab attackers in the box. That penalty was down to Shearer."

The controversial goal split the teams although Blackburn had to survive a nervous last 15min without goalkeeper Tim Flowers, who was dismissed for a professional foul after racing out of his goal to flatten Trevor Sinclair.

Rangers player-manager Ray Wilkins is pressing for a change in the law.

"I would rather have a penalty than see a player sent off," he said.

Van Basten bids emotional farewell

Former Dutch international striker Marco Van Basten, forced to retire due to a chronic ankle injury, bid an emotional farewell to thousands of AC Milan fans at a pre-season friendly against Juventus last Friday.

Van Basten, who joined Milan in 1987 and helped them to European Cup triumphs in 1989 and 1990, announced his retirement from soccer after a three-year battle with a troublesome right ankle.

The Dutch marksman was greeted by tumultuous applause from both Milan and Juventus fans in the 60,000-strong crowd when he walked onto the pitch of Milan's San Siro stadium in the company of his former team-mates before the match.

AC Milan fans waved banners thanking Van Basten and lamenting his departure. One read: "San Siro without Van Basten is like a falcon without wings."

A visibly-moved Van Basten, casually dressed in a suede jacket and jeans, ran round the pitch waving to fans while the stadium's massive television screens showed replays of his most famous goals.

Milan's general manager Adriano Galliani has said the club, owned by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, has asked Van Basten to stay on and work with them in an off-the-field capacity, perhaps a promotional role.

But Van Basten told reporters he had not yet decided what he would do in the future.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE — PAGE 27

BRITISH
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WORLD RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

— August 15 —

Barnet.....0	Charlton.....0
Birmingham.....1	Plymouth.....0
Bradford.....2	Blackpool.....1
Cambridge United.....2	Swindon.....1
Chester.....4	Wigan.....1
Chesterfield.....0	Bury.....1
Colchester.....2	Bristol City.....1
Fulham.....3	Brighton.....0
Gillingham.....1	Bristol Rovers.....1
Hereford.....0	Oxford.....2
Huddersfield.....1	Port Vale.....2
Hull.....1	Carlisle.....2
Luton.....1	Bournemouth.....1
Mansfield.....0	Burnley.....1
Notts County.....2	Lincoln.....0
Preston.....1	Sunderland.....1
Rochdale.....2	York.....1
Scarborough.....1	Hartlepool.....0
Scunthorpe.....4	Rotherham.....1
Stockport.....1	Wrexham.....0
Swansea.....4	Peterborough.....1
Torquay.....0	Exeter.....0
Walsall.....2	Brentford.....2
West Bromwich.....1	Northampton.....1
Wycombe.....3	Leyton Orient.....0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa.....3	Manchester United.....1
Blackburn.....1	QPR.....0
Chelsea.....0	Everton.....0
Liverpool.....1	Sheffield Wed.....0
Manchester City.....1	Tottenham.....1
Newcastle.....3	Coventry.....0
Southampton.....3	Nottingham Forest.....4
West Ham.....1	Leeds.....2
Wimbledon.....3	Bolton.....2
Arsenal.....1	Middlesbrough.....1

Playing Monday: Leeds v Liverpool

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley.....2	Oldham.....1
Charlton.....3	Birmingham.....1
Grimsby.....2	Portsmouth.....1
Huddersfield.....1	Watford.....0
Ipswich.....1	Crystal Palace.....0
Leicester.....2	Stoke.....3
Norwich.....0	Sunderland.....0
Port Vale.....0	Millwall.....1
Reading.....3	Derby.....1
Sheffield United.....0	Tranmere.....2
Southend.....0	Luton.....1
Wolverhampton.....1	West Bromwich.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool.....2	Wrexham.....0
Bournemouth.....3	Peterborough.....0
Brentford.....1	Oxford.....0
Brighton.....0	Bradford.....0
Bristol Rovers.....2	Swansea.....2
Chesterfield.....3	Carlisle.....0
Notts County.....2	Wycombe.....0
Rotherham.....1	Hull.....1
Shrewsbury.....0	Walsall.....2
Stockport.....0	Burnley.....0
Swindon.....3	York.....0

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet.....1	Colchester.....1
Bury.....1	Chester.....1
Cambridge.....2	Hereford.....2
Cardiff.....0	Northampton.....1
Darlington.....0	Rochdale.....1
Hartlepool.....0	Exeter.....0
Lincoln.....0	Gillingham.....3
Mansfield.....0	Leyton Orient.....0
Plymouth.....0	Preston.....2
Scarborough.....2	Fulham.....2
Torquay.....1	Doncaster.....2
Wigan.....2	Scunthorpe.....1

Scottish League Cup 2nd round

Aberdeen.....3	St Mirren.....1
Ayr.....0	Celtic.....3
Berwick.....0	Partick.....7
Clydebank.....1	Motherwell.....1
after extra time (90 minutes: 1-1. Motherwell won 4-1 on penalties)	
Cowdenbeath.....0	Dundee United.....4
Dunfermline.....3	Stranraer.....0
East Fife.....2	Airdrieonians.....3
East Stirling.....0	Dundee.....6
Hearts.....3	Alloa.....0
Hibernian.....3	Stenhousemuir.....1
Kilmarnock.....1	Dumbarton.....0
after extra time (90 minutes: 0-0)	
Queen of the South.....0	Falkirk.....2
Raith.....2	Arbroath.....1
Rangers.....3	Greenock Morton.....0
St Johnstone.....1	Livingston.....1
after extra time (90 minutes: 1-1. Livingston won 4-2 on penalties)	
Stirling.....2	Hamilton.....0

NORTHERN IRISH ULSTER CUP

Group A

Carrick.....4	Omagh.....4
Crusaders.....4	Glentoran.....3

Group B

Ballyclare.....0	Distillery.....6
Glenavon.....2	Cliftonville.....0

Group C

Newry.....1	Bangor.....2
Portadown.....0	Coleraine.....2

Group D

Ards.....2	Linfield.....0
Larne.....0	Ballymena.....1

SWEDISH FIRST DIVISION

— August 15 —

Oster.....4	Vastra Frolunda.....0
Orgryte.....0	Halmstad.....2
Orebro.....5	Malmo.....0
Trelleborg.....1	Djurgarden.....1
AIK.....1	Helsingborg.....1
Norrkoping.....0	Gothenburg.....5
Hammarby.....2	Degerfors.....1

TABLE

Helsingborg	15	8	3	4	25	17	27
Halmstad	15	7	4	4	22	20	25
Gothenburg	15	6	6	3	25	11	24
Djurgarden	15	6	6	3	20	16	24
Malmo	15	5	8	2	18	16	23
Orebro	15	5	6	4	20	16	21
Norrkoping	15	6	2	7	20	25	20
Trelleborg	15	4	4	4	23	18	19
Oster	15	4	6	5	26	24	18
AIK	15	4	6	5	20	23	18
Hammarby	15	4	4	7	15	20	16
Orgryte	15	4	4	7	9	18	16
Vastra Frolunda	15	2	8	5	16	22	14
Degerfors	15	1	8	6	14	28	11

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE

— August 19 —

Division A

Red Star.....5	Buducnost.....1
Zemun.....0	Partizan.....2
Becej.....3	OFK Beograd.....1
Napredak.....2	Radnicki (N).....3
Proleter.....1	Vojvodina.....0

TABLE

Red Star	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Becej	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Radnicki (N)	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Vojvodina	2	1	0	1	6	1	3
Partizan	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Proleter	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Buducnost	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
OFK Beograd	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Zemun	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Napredak	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

Division B

Obilic.....1	Cukaricki.....1
Mladost (BJ).....1	Hajduk.....0
Slododa.....2	Loznica.....0
Borac.....0	Mladost (L).....0
Rad.....3	Radnicki (B).....0

TABLE

Rad	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Slododa	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Mladost (BJ)	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Radnicki (B)	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Cukaricki	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Borac	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Mladost (L)	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hajduk	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Loznica	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Obilic	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

CROATIAN A LEAGUE

Supplied by the New Croatia newspaper

Zagreb.....0	Osijek.....2
Harsonia.....0	Rijeka.....1
Varteks.....2	Istra.....0
Sibenik.....3	Inker.....1
Segesta.....1	Hajduk.....1

TABLE

Objek	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Varteks	2	2	0	0	5	1	8
Hajduk	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Croatia	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Sibenik	2	1	0	1	4	4	3

Rijeka	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Zagreb	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Cibalia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Istra	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Segesta	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Inker	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Marsonia	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— August 20 —

Club Brugge.....3	Waregem.....1
Harelbeke.....4	Charleroi.....0
Ghent.....0	Lierse.....2
Standard Liege.....4	Cercle Brugge.....0
Mechelen.....1	Seraing.....4
Anderlecht.....4	Sint-Truiden.....0
Beveren.....3	Ekeren.....2
Antwerp.....0	Aalst.....1
Lommel.....0	Molenbeek.....1

TABLE

Standard Liege	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
Aalst	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
Club Brugge	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Harelbeke	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Charleroi	4	3	0	1	9	7	9
Molenbeek	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Cercle Brugge	4	2	1	1	4	6	7
Lierse	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Antwerp	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Seraing	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Sint-Truiden	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Waregem	4	1	1	2	5	9	4
Anderlecht	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Beveren	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Ghent	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Mechelen	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Ekeren	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Lommel	4	0	0	4	1	6	0

DUTCH SUPERCUP

— August 16 —

Ajax Amsterdam 2 (R.de Boer 70, Kluivert 101 pen) bt Feyenoord Rotterdam 1 (Larsson 72) after sudden death goal

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

— August 21 —

RKC Waalwijk.....2	NAC Breda.....2
F Rotterdam.....5	Vitesse Arnhem.....2
Volendam.....1	Twente Enschede.....3
Ajax Amsterdam.....4	Utrecht.....0
De G Doetinchem.....2	NEC Nijmegen.....3
Willem II Tilburg.....6	Sparta Rotterdam.....0
GAE Deventer.....2	Groningen.....2
Roda JC Kerkrade.....2	Heerenveen.....2
Fortuna Sittard.....1	PSV Eindhoven.....3

GERMAN FIRST DIVISION

— August 19 —

Bayer Leverkusen.....1	Borussia Dortmund.....1
1860 Munich.....1	Stuttgart.....1
Uerdingen.....1	Eintracht Frankfurt.....1
Karlsruhe.....2	Bayern Munich.....6
Kaiserslautern.....1	Bor. M'gladbach.....3
Freiburg.....0	St Pauli.....2
Hamburg.....3	Werder Bremen.....3
Schalke.....1	Hansa Rostock.....3
Duesseldorf.....1	Cologne.....1

SWISS FIRST DIVISION

— August 19 —

St Gallen.....0	Young Boys.....0
Aarau.....2	Servette.....4
Lausanne.....3	FC Zurich.....0
Basle.....0	Lugano.....2
Grasshoppers.....4	Lucerne.....0
Neuchatel Xamax.....3	Sion.....0

TABLE

Sion	6	4	0	2	7	7	12
St Gallen	6	3	2	1	11	4	11
Basle	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Servette	6	2	3	1	10	6	9
Lausanne	6	2	3	1	9	5	9
Neuchatel	6	3	0	3	9	7	9
Young Boys	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Lucerne	6	3	0	3	8	11	9
Grasshoppers	4	2	1	1	10	4	7
Aarau	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Lugano	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
FC Zurich	6	0	1	5	1	14	1

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— August 19 —

St Etienne.....3	Bastia.....0
Le Havre.....0	Metz.....0
Queugnon.....1	Paris St Germain.....3
Guingamp.....1	Bordeaux.....0
Monaco.....0	Martignes.....1
Nantes.....1	Nice.....0
Strasbourg.....3	Rennes.....1
Montpellier.....3	Auxerre.....1
Cannes.....2	Lille.....1
Lens.....2	Lyon.....2

TABLE

Paris St Germain	5	3	2	0	12	5	11
Guingamp	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Metz	5	3	2	0	5	1	11
Bastia	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Nantes	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Strasbourg	4	2	0	8	3	8	
Lens	5	1	3	1	5	4	8
Montpellier	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Monaco	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Martignes	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Cannes	5	2	0	3	7	6	6
Bordeaux	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Rennes	5	2	0	3	7	11	6
Nice	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
St Etienne	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Lyon	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Auxerre	5	1	2	2	7	7	4
Le Havre	5	1	1	3	2	7	4
Queugnon	5	0	2	3	2	10	2
Lille	4	0	1	4	2	7	1

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— August 20 —

Campomaiorense.....0	Quimaraes.....1
Porto.....2	Sporting.....1
Pelgueiras.....2	Chaves.....2
Uniao Leiria.....0	Maritimo.....4
Leca.....0	Gil Vicente.....2
Farense.....2	Tirsense.....1
Braga.....2	Estrela Amadora.....1

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GL

BE

SCANDINAVIA WANTS WORLD CUP

The four Scandinavian federations have announced that they were going to bid for the right to host the 2006 World Cup tournament.

Sweden, which hosted the 1992 European championships, Denmark, Norway and Finland hope to convince FIFA to modify the regulation that forbids the event from being hosted in more than one country.

UEFA set a precedent by allowing Belgium and Holland to bid successfully for the 2000 European championships.

SUNDERLAND APPEAL

Sunderland is to appeal against a Department of Employment (DoE) ruling which is refusing a work permit for US international goalkeeper Brad Friedel.

The club was informed last week by the DoE that Friedel does not meet the criteria in relation to appearances in competitive matches.

Following this, Sunderland has instructed its legal advisors to lodge an appeal immediately.

The first division club

has agreed a fee of \$A1.2 million pounds with the United States Soccer Federation for the 23-year-old goalkeeper, who has 35 caps.

BOLI BACK IN FRANCE

Former Olympique Marseille player Basile Boli has signed a two-year contract with AS Monaco, the French sports newspaper L'Equipe reported last week.

The internationally-renowned defender, who has played the last three seasons with Glasgow Rangers, will begin training with Monaco this week, it said.

Boli, 28, never fitted in at Rangers. He caused controversy when he was quoted in a French magazine as criticising manager Walter Smith's tactics in a European Cup defeat by AEK Athens last August.

He played 28 Premier League matches for Rangers last season, scoring two goals. He also scored in a Scottish Cup win over Hamilton.

The move will see him back among several of his former colleagues from Olympique Marseille: Fabien Barthez, Eric Di Meco and Sonny Anderson.

Boli is the third recruit to AS Monaco this season.

SEVILLE & CELTA DECISION

Soccer clubs Sevilla and Celta de Vigo retained their first division status last week when the Spanish Football League (LFP) agreed to expand the division from 20 to 22 clubs.

The general assembly of the LFP overturned its executive's earlier decision to relegate the two clubs to the third division for accounting errors relating to their 1995/96 budgets.

COACH SACKED

Jean Docx has replaced sacked Anderlecht coach Herbert Neumann the Belgian champions announced last week.

Neumann paid the price for Anderlecht losing its first two games of the season and also a 1-0 defeat at home to unheralded Hungarian champions Ferencvaros in the first leg of the European Cup preliminary round.

KLINSMANN OUT FOR ONE MONTH

Jurgen Klinsmann, Bayern Munich's German international striker, will



Basile Boli: From Rangers to Monaco.

be out of action for a month owing to a partially torn tendon it was announced last week.

Klinsmann, who cost Bayern \$A2.97 million

from English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur, suffered the injury in the opening league match of the season last Saturday against Hamburg. Bayern won 3-2. The German captain, 31, will miss Germany's friendly against Belgium in Brussels on August 23.

DUTCHMAN RETURNS HOME

Club Brugge's Dutch striker Rene Eijkelkamp signed a two-year contract with Dutch first division club PSV Eindhoven for an undisclosed fee, Belgian television said.

"It came as a total surprise to me when I learned that Rene had signed for two years with PSV," said Club Brugge coach Hugo Broos.

"I didn't have to think twice about the offer. I'm 31 and I still want to become a league champion," Eijkelkamp said.

RUSSIAN STAR JOINS RANGERS

Russian World Cup star Oleg Salenko last week completed his \$A4.25 million transfer to Glasgow Rangers.

Salenko's move from Spanish club Valencia was sealed last month but the Scottish champion still needed to secure a work permit for him.

"Rangers are a very big club and I'm looking forward to playing for

them," said Salenko, who scored five goals against Cameroon during the World Cup last year. "After two seasons in Spain I was looking for a new challenge and a new place to play."

The transfer was finalised in time to beat the UEFA deadline for Salenko to play in the European Champions Cup — should Rangers eliminate Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus this week.

SILENZI MISSES FOREST OPENER

Italian star Andrea Silenzi missed Nottingham Forest's opening premiership game of the season against Southampton at the Dell last Saturday.

Silenzi, a \$A3.83 million buy from Torino last month, has suffered a slight calf injury and manager Frank Clark was reluctant to risk him.

"The injury is not too serious but it would have been daft to risk Andrea at such an early stage of the season," said Clark.

SWEDES END BARREN RUN

Sweden, third in last year's World Cup, ended a seven-match run without a win by beating the United States 1-0 last week, but only through a late penalty.

Sweden had dominated the first half but a superb display by goalkeeper Brad

Friedel kept the score-sheet clean. Striker Martin Dahlin failed to convert a fine pass from Jonas Thern midway through the first half and a few minutes later Friedel deflected a shot from midfielder Kennet Andersson.

Sweden looked to be going another match without winning until Dahlin was brought down inside the penalty area and Tomas Brodin scored from the spot. The US came close to an equaliser from a corner in the final minute, but Swedish defender Mikael Nilsson headed the ball off the line.

HAJDUK TO PLAY AT HOME

Croatian side Hajduk Split was last week ordered to play its European Cup preliminary round home leg against Panathinaikos of Greece on August 23 in Rijeka near the Italian border for security reasons.

A European Football Union (UEFA) statement also said the UEFA Cup preliminary round second leg between Croatia's NK Osijek and Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia on August 22 would take place as scheduled in Zagreb.

SOSA'S \$A2.7 MOVE

Uruguayan international striker Ruben Sosa signed a one-year contract with German champion Borussia Dortmund for \$A2.70 million from Italian League giant Inter Milan last week.

Sosa, 29, started his Italian League career with Lazio but he enjoyed greater success at Inter.

In 1993-94 he outshone Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp scoring 16 goals in 27 games, predominantly spectacular long range efforts.

That was quite a feat considering Inter finished only one place above the relegation positions. Even victory in that season's UEFA Cup final could not mask the decline in the Milan club's fortunes from the days of their German trio of Matthaus, Brehme and Klinsmann.

Sosa's difficult relationship with Bergkamp hardly helped matters and Inter under new ownership has sold Bergkamp, loaned out Russian Igor Shalimov and now sold the Uruguayan.

Sosa, who played in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, continues Dortmund's uncanny liking for attracting players disenchanted with the Italian League. German internationals Andy Moeller, Karl-Heinz Riedle and Jurgen Kohler have all joined in the past couple of seasons from Italian clubs.

RACIST FANS TARGET RINCON

Freddy Rincon, the Colombian international striker signed by Spanish champion Real Madrid from Italian club Napoli last week, has incited a racist response from a fascist section of its fans.

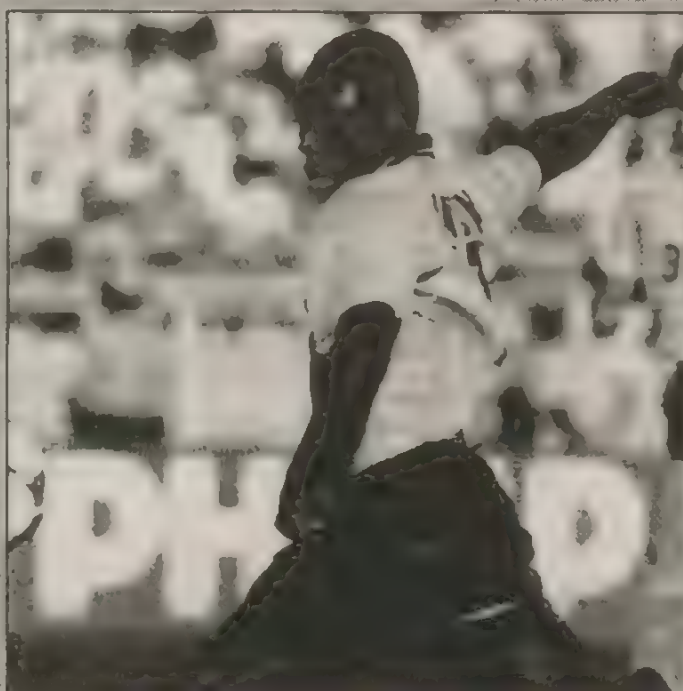
Skins Odal painted on the walls of the Bernabeu stadium slogans such as "Rincon, go back to the jungle", "Rincon, you are a target" and "Rincon, we will kill you".

Rincon, 29, Colombia's top scorer in the recent Copa America tournament, signed a three-year contract after receiving death threats at Napoli last season.

For any player it is a particularly sensitive issue but for a Colombian, after his teammate Pablo Escobar was murdered in Medellin after last year's World Cup failure, it is especially so.

The fascist group also daubed the slogan "Valdano only buys sudacas" (an insulting term for South Americans). This was a reference to Argentinian manager Jorge Valdano's predilection for buying players from his continent.

Apart from Dane Michael Laudrup, Madrid's four other foreigners are all South Americans.



Freddy Rincon: A controversial signing by Real Madrid.

FREDDY QUILTS NAPOLI

Colombian international Freddy Rincon quit Napoli for \$A4.73 million last week, signing a three-year contract for Spanish champion Real Madrid.

Rincon said he was determined to fight his way into the team coached by Jorge Valdano, the former Argentinian international.

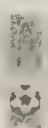
He faces stiff competition from four other top foreign international stars — Argentina's Fernando Redondo and Dane Michael Laudrup in midfield as well as strikers Juan Eduardo Esnaider from Argentina and

Chile's Ivan Zamorano.

"To play in the team I will have to work hard," said Rincon, whose uneven performances at Napoli earned him death threats from die-hard fans.

The 29-year-old veteran of the 1990 and 1994 World Cup, who scored three goals in the recent Copa America, said playing in Spain would be "more interesting" than in Italy.

"They are not so defensive here. They believe in more open football with more space for the players with skill."



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



LIBERTADORES CUP FINAL

Gremio v Atletico Nacional

FINAL PREVIEWS

GREMIO

Gremio, one of the oldest clubs in Brazil won the Libertadores Cup only once, in 1983, and was runner-up in 1984.

Gremio's success over the years demonstrated that the rich vein of football talent in Brazil is not confined to the Carica (Rio de Janeiro) and Paulista (Sao Paulo) state leagues. Although for most of the 1970's they were overshadowed by arch-rivals Internacional, Gremio are level in state championship titles.

Gremio first entered the Libertadores Cup in 1982, but was eliminated in the first round.

The next season brought spectacular revenge. In the first round Gremio topped a group which included Flamengo and two Bolivian teams. Ironically it was attacking general Tita, whom Gremio had taken on loan from Flamengo, who made all the difference.

After eliminating America of Cali (Colombia), and Estudiantes de la Plata of Argentina in the semi-finals, the Brazilians went to win the competition knocking Uruguayan giant, Penarol, in the final. Gremio drew 1-1 in Montevideo and beat Penarol, 2-1, in Porto Alegre.

From there, they went on to win the Toyota Cup, defeating Hamburg of Germany by 2-1 in Tokyo.

Gremio's winning team of the time was: Mazaropi, Paulo Roberto, Baidek, De Leon, Casemiro, China, Osvaldo, Tita, Renato, Caio, Tarciso.



Libertadores Cup here we come: Rene Higuita and Alexis Garcia (Hand in the air) lead their Atletico Nacional team-mates on a lap of honour to celebrate their Colombian Championship win last season.

ATLETICO NACIONAL'S TIME

In 1989, Atletico Nacional of Medellin won the Libertadores Cup for the first time in the history of Colombian football.

After the failures of Deportivo Cali in 1977, losing the final against Boca Juniors of Argentina, and America in 1985, 1986 and 1987 going down against Argentinos Juniors of Argentina, River Plate of Argentina and Penarol of Uruguay respectively, a team from Medellin,

having the characteristic of being wholly made up of Colombian born players won the most valuable trophy.

Furthermore, the coach was a former Colombian international: Francisco "Pacho" Maturana.

The team from Medellin climbs up to heaven after two dramatic victories against Olimpia of Paraguay. They were defeated in Asuncion by 2-0 but in their own homeground they beat the Paraguayans by the same margin.

Deadlocked after extra-time, the match was

decided by penalty shots.

Atletico's goalkeeper, Rene Higuita was the hero, saving four penalties, after a dramatic shoot-out that needed 18 shots to define the new champion.

Escobar, Usuriaga, Trellez, Higuita and Leonel Alvarez scored for Atletico Nacional while Benitez, Chama and Mendoza netted for the Paraguayans.

Higuita stopped the shots from Almeida, Gonzalez, Guash and Balbuena, while Olimpia's Uruguayan goalkeeper Almeida saved the shots from Garcia and Perea.

Atletico's team of the

time was: Higuita Carmona, Perea, Escobar, Gomez, Leonel Alvarez, A. Garcia, Fajardo, Arango, Arboleda, Usuriaga, Trellez.

THE 1995 FINALS

Gremio and Atletico Nacional will play the first leg of the final tomorrow (Wednesday), August 23, at Porto Alegre's Olympic Stadium the homeground of the Brazilians. The second leg will be played on Wednesday, August 30 at Medellin's "El Campin" Stadium.

SEMI-FINALS - 2ND LEG

Gremio of Brazil and Atletico Nacional of Colombia were the finalists of the 1995 Libertadores Cup, the major championship at club level in South America, after their respective victories over Emelec of Ecuador and River Plate of Argentina.

The Brazilians, after a 2-0 draw away, defeated Emelec, 2-0, at Porto Alegre's Olympic Stadium, in front of a crowd of 30,000.

Gremio's striker Paulo Nunes opened the account in the 30th minute with a powerful shot and Jardel added the second, in the 41st, with a soft touch.

Paraguayan referee Felix Benegas sent off two Ecuadorian players, Reheman in the first half, and Caparro in the 67th.

GREMIO: Daniel, Arce, Adilson, Rivalola, Roger (Mancini), Dinho (Laciano), Luiz Carlos Goiano, Arilson, Carlos Miguel (Alexandre), Paulo Nunes, Jardel.

Coach: Luiz Felipe.

EMELEC: Espinoza, Quinteros (Gonzalez), Ivan Hurtado, Poroso (Smith), Capurro, Fajardo, Verduga, Reheman, Tenorio, Edu Manga, Eduardo Hurtado.

Coach: Juan Ramon Silva.

Atletico Nacional of Colombia reached the final of the Libertadores Cup after a dramatic 8-7 win on penalties against River Plate of Argentina, in front of 60,000 spectators, at Buenos Aires' Monumental Stadium.

The Colombians won the first leg 1-0, in Medellin, with a goal scored by flamboyant goalkeeper Rene Higuita. While the Argentines defeated Atletico 1-0, in Buenos Aires, with a goal scored by striker Gabriel Amato in the 48th minute.

After the 90th minutes and extra-time the semi-final was decided on penalties with Atletico Nacional winning 8-7.

Once again Higuita was the hero saving several clear chances during the match and stopping the last penalty from River Plate's midfielder Matias Almeyda. The Argentine team, now coached by former Argentine international Ramon Diaz, lacked ideas to break a solid Colombian defence and the brilliant Higuita.

Uruguayan referee Gilberto Nieves sent off River Plate defender Altamirano and Atletico's striker Aristizabal in the 76th minute.

RIVER PLATE: Burgos, Hernan Diaz, Celso Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Cedres, Gallardo, Amato, Ortega.

ATLETICO NACIONAL: Rene Higuita, Santa, Marulanda, Foronda, Mosquera, Serna, Gutierrez, Pavon, Alexis Garcia, Angel (Melamby), Aristizabal.

Coach: Juan Jose Pelaez.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil: Gremio (Brazil) 2 Emelec (Ecuador) 0 (halftime 2-0)

Scorers: Paulo Nunes (30th minute), Jardel (41st)

Attendance: 30,000 Gremio wins 2-0 on aggregate

In Buenos Aires: River Plate (Argentina) 1 Atletico Nacional (Colombia) 0 (0-0)

Scorer: Gabriel Amato (48th)

Attendance: 60,000 Aggregate score 1-1. Atletico Nacional won 8-7 on penalties.

Final to be played over two legs. First leg in Porto Alegre on August 23, second leg in Medellin, Colombia, on August 30.

Brazilians ban phone calls

Ecstatic Brazilian goalscorers have been told to get off the phone and get on with the game — but they're allowed to keep hugging, kissing and pulling their shirts over their heads.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), which has previously clamped down on players performing elaborate dance routines after goals, said they will show more leniency in the championship which began last week, but won't allow pretend phone calls.

In addition to dancing, the CBF will allow players to celebrate

behind the goal and on the running track around the pitch. They can also run to the team bench and hug the substitutes.

Goalscorers can also cover their heads with the front of their shirts.

But the CBF warned that players risk yellow cards for fence climbing or running to the phone behind the goal, common in Brazilian stadiums, and pretending to make a call.

They have also banned players from wearing two shirts so they can pull off the top one and throw it to the crowd after a goal.

The history of football in Ecuador

IN 1899 two brothers, Juan Alfredo and Roberto Wright, travelled to Ecuador carrying a football in their luggage which was the first one to be used for practice by the young members of the newly founded Guayaquil Sports Club. Soon afterwards, newspapers reported that more footballs had arrived from Europe. This is the story, as told by Ricardo Vasconcelos below, of how Ecuador's most popular sport took root.

The first football match, involving two teams from Guayaquil Sports club, took place on January 28th 1900.

The Ecuador Sports club, devoted exclusively to football, evolved two years later. From this point on, play flourished and football went from strength to strength with clubs and sports facilities mushrooming, especially

in Guayaquil and Quito.

The steady growth of football finally led Ecuador to join FIFA in 1926. Ecuadorian football had been organised by a national sports association for years before the football association proper emerged — it did not adopt the name of Federacion Ecuatoriana de Futbol until 1985.

The oldest clubs still playing at present are Panama SC in the second division (1923), Barcelona SC (1925) and its perpetual rival, Emelec SC (1928). Ecuador's national team has competed in 20 South American continental championships, leading fourth in 1957 and 1993. Even though it has always taken part in the preliminary competition of World Cups, it has never managed to break through to the final competition.

The nearest miss was in 1966 when Ecuador lost by a whisker in a play-off

against Chile in Lima. Alberto Spencer, considered by many to be Ecuador's best all-time player, was a member of that line-up. Polo Carrera, another big-time player, followed in his footsteps in the 70s.

Nowadays the famous Colombian coach, Francisco "Pacho" Maturana, is busy trying to underpin the progress Ecuador has strived to achieve over the years. Two of the outstanding players are Alex Aguinaga, currently under contract with Necaxa in Mexico, and Holger Quiñonez, who now plays in Colombia since celebrating championship honours with Vasco de Gama in Brazil.

At the end of 1993, Ecuador had crept up to 48th place in the FIFA/Coca Cola World Rankings but have since slipped down the ladder where before the start of this year's Copa America, they were perched around rung no. 70.

VAN BASTEN

RETIRES



In full flight for AC Milan



Celebrating victory for Ajax Amsterdam

AC Milan's Dutch international Marco van Basten, one of the greatest strikers of the modern era, retired from soccer last week, admitting defeat by a chronic ankle injury that had kept him out of action for more than two years.

"The news is brief — I've decided to quit as a soccer player," the three-time European footballer of the year told a news conference.

I took the decision after speaking to my doctor in Belgium two weeks ago when we realised the situation with my ankle is exactly the same as it was a year ago," added Van Basten, 30.

"When I stand up the ankle feels sore, a bit lame. I can't even play tennis with my friends."

Van Basten began his career at Ajax Amsterdam and won the Dutch national title three times, also helping them to the Cup Winners' Cup in 1987 before joining AC Milan.

His partnership with compatriots Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard powered the Italian club to European Cup successes in 1989 and 1990. The trio also inspired the Netherlands to their European championship triumph of 1988.

Van Basten has not played since the May 1993 European Cup final in Munich when Milan lost 1-0 to Olympique Marseille.

That appearance was part of an abortive three-match comeback following an operation on his troublesome right ankle in December 1992.

More surgery followed but the specialists were unable to repair the damage done by more than a decade of heavy tackles from defenders determined to halt the skilful star.

Van Basten said he had surgery four times on the ankle since 1987, but added:

"I don't know if the doctors have always helped me because from 1992 onwards nothing has really improved. It seemed to me that after every operation things got worse rather than better."

"I've had operations, water treatment, heat treatment, acupuncture and even been to witch doctors but nothing seemed to help."

Milan general manager Adriano Galliani said that the club, owned by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, had asked the Dutchman to stay on and work with them in an off-the-field capacity, perhaps in a promotional role.

But Van Basten said he had not yet made up his mind.

"I will continue to live in Milan for the moment. In a couple of months or a year I may have decided what to do next," he said, adding that he was not attracted to coaching.

The player took a final bow at the San Siro stadium last Friday night before Milan played Italian champions Juventus in a pre-season friendly.

He described that Dutch European success of seven years ago as one of the highlights of his career and admitted that not everything had gone according to plan.

"When you retire, you seem to become a better player in people's minds. I've missed a lot of chances and played plenty of bad matches," he said.

"A life without soccer can be good. If you take out soccer it still leaves a lot."



MARCO VAN BASTEN

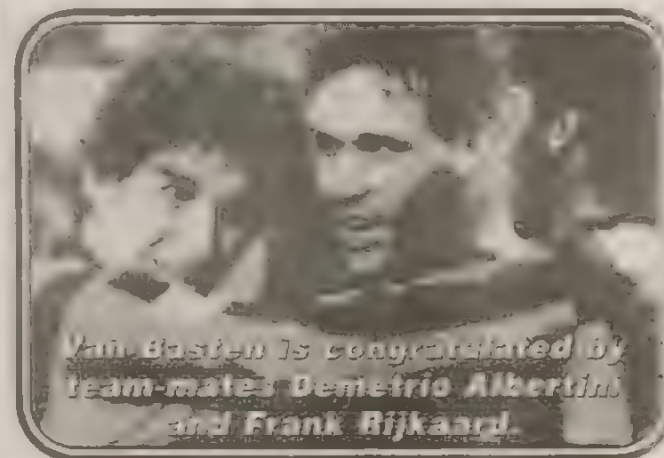
YEARS	CLUB	GAMES	GOALS
1981-82	AJAX	1	1
1982-83	AJAX	20	9
1983-84	AJAX	26	28
1984-85	AJAX	33	22
1985-86	AJAX	26	37
1986-87	AJAX	27	31
1987-88	MILAN	11	3
1988-89	MILAN	33	19
1989-90	MILAN	26	19
1990-91	MILAN	31	11
1991-92	MILAN	31	25
1992-93	MILAN	15	13
1993-94	MILAN	C	0
1994-95	MILAN	C	0



During his ultimately unsuccessful road to recovery.



Milan's former Dutch trio: Rijkaard, Gullit and Van Basten



Van Basten is congratulated by team-mates Demetrio Albertini and Frank Rijkaard.

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Europe, transfer fees,

Now the likes of Southgate, Milosevic, Ferdinand, Platt, Bergkamp, Barton, Ginola, Armstrong, Campbell, Barmby, Salako, Hyslop, Degryse, Draper, Silenzi, Bart-Williams, Hughes, and Collymore must prove the millions spent on them are worth it.

The game will decline if all these ridiculous prices are spent on players. In Scotland only one team gets the million pound signings it seems, and the likes of Celtic and Motherwell can't compete.

On the subject of Scotland, looking through the Premier League table this season isn't it great to see the likes of Partick, Raith, Kilmarnock, and Falkirk taking on the traditional big guns. Unfortunately teams like Killie can't hang on to their managers when clubs like Hearts move in for the kill but I for one hope that these four teams go well this season and are really competitive.

I recently went out to Blacktown City for the first time and was very impressed with the club set up. I had not realised a club in Australia actually printed the players names on the back of their shirts, and this shows the sort of foresight the club has. Unfortunately the quality of play was not as good as it could have been because the opposition, Leichhardt, decided they'd play like a certain team does in England who play at Highbury with JVC on the front of their shirts (You know the old hustle and sometimes accidental elbow style).

Best of luck to all the teams involved in their state finals. Any Stirling Lions fans in WA I can report that I met a guy whilst at a Dagenham and Redbridge game who actually supported this WA team. So there you go your appeal is worldwide, even in English non-league football.

A lot of teams seem to like to hassle teams out of playing flowing football these days. You know the stuff well we can't play so we'll make sure they won't. Whilst in the UK I noticed that a number of teams have reverted back to the old passing game as it is more effective, and I hope with the many new coaches in the Australian league (put your own name in the space before League, well SA seem to have) this season hopefully we will see quality football.

Maybe Soccer Australia could implement the new



Andrea Silenzi: Should be a hit in the Premier League.

rule in the Endsleigh Insurance league (who said advertisers would ever dominate?) that goal difference is simply determined by the amount of goals SCORED.

Hopefully the grounds are up to scratch this season for good flowing football. I watched many a game at Carlisle where they play flowing football, unfortunately it was ruined by a pitch decimated by the weather conditions, mind you scoring a lot of goals doesn't mean promotion always. In 1959-60 Hibernian scored 106 goals and still finished seventh. (That season their reserves scored 139 goals).

Talking of Carlisle I am pleased to announce that I have had official notification that I can start up the Carlisle United supporters club downunder. Any fans who would like to join you can get information through the UKSSD PO Box and fax line. Micky will pass on the information and I will get back to you with details of the club.

This is independent of UKSSD (although like all quality supporter clubs we come under their umbrella) and should provide quality information about games for Carlisle fans exiled downunder.

If you think your family has had some bad luck in football here is one family you wouldn't want to accept a trial from. Allan Clarke was with Fulham when they were relegated in 1968, and with Leicester when they went down in 1969. His brother Frank played for Carlisle when they were last in 1975.

Derek, the third brother, was with Oxford in 1976 when they were relegated, and brother Kevin was with Walsall when they were relegated in 1979. There was a fifth brother too, Wayne was relegated whilst with Wolves in 1984, and with Birmingham in 1986.

Five brothers sharing seven relegations, maybe a different career path would have been in order, or maybe it was just sheer bad luck. If there is a sixth brother anywhere uhh don't call us we'll call you!

Have you noticed the amount of goalies that originate from Australia? There is Frank Talia who seems to be playing for Blackburn (although there are a few keepers who are pretty good in front of him), John Filan who was at Cambridge, but seems to have found his feet at Coventry (I saw him play there and he kept a blank sheet and had a tremendous game against eventual FA

game. You do let an awful lot in between your legs. I have a picture of you on my bedroom wall and I throw darts at it every Saturday night. You are well by your sell by date and my happiest day will be when you hang up your boots for good, you big Welsh fairy. Gosh I hate you.

J. Kearton — Southport
(From Speke From the Harbour issue 10) And this was the sanitised version! Jason surely must feel the same way this chap from Southport does, at least sometimes.

He even had to go on loan to Notts County last season for some games in the first team! Now manager Joe Royal wants to bring in another keeper, could it be after all Jason's patience he will not be rewarded with a place regularly in the first team when Neville does give up. (Mind you after his FA Cup final performance that could still be a while away!) At least Bob Catlin returned home or we'd have to play me in goals (Well not quite — thank goodness!)

Don't forget to join AFSA, it's for ALL supporters throughout the country. You can contact us at the usual address at the top of the page for more information. In the next few weeks there will be some BIG news hopefully, so join now. Supporters in this country need to unite and have a voice and this is your chance.

We are not just English supporters. I grew up in Australia and as a soccer supporter I had no say in the game. There is a new wave of change in soccer in Australia, don't you the fans want to help? Then join AFSA and have your say, we talk to the new boys in charge of SA and we want to hear your opinions too!

Kim T. does a great job with the players union. Now the players have a strong voice in Australian football. It's time the fans have too!!

Just a brief comment to say thank you to SBS for their continued commitment to football in this country. Whilst the new guard talk of commercial TV covering football, Les Murray and his team should not be forgotten after all they took the risk and continued to cover soccer whilst it was on a low ebb.

Please don't make Channel Ten or Nine the new soccer station as they have shown nothing but contempt for the game in the past. That 60 Minutes piece on the English game seemed to me to be an unresearched

Firstly a note to say get well Micky. Hopefully by now you are totally recovered from your recent sickness. That's right two weeks back in this country and I'm ready doing Micky's work.

Nothing changes (only kidding mate!!!). Fortunately I kept up with Aussie soccer by receiving a copy of ABSW every week — thanks to everyone involved in that.

Congratulations to Steve Corica for becoming the first player to score in the English League this season. After all his attempts to land an overseas contract it's great he has had some instant success.

All foxes fans hope it will continue throughout the season. I saw all the Leicester backroom lads in the off season and they are very serious about winning the first division this season and having a squad who can stay in the Premier League.

There are now 26 Australians playing in England. When I went to see Millwall play Bolton at the New Den last season three were playing for the Lions with Edwards out injured. (David Oldfield was on loan from Leicester City).

Let's hope Steve won't repeat Geoff Palmer of Wolves performance in 1982-83 when he scored a penalty in the first minute of the first game of the season and then did not score another for the rest of the season!

Another poor performance by British and Irish clubs in Europe preliminary rounds. Bangor City, Motherwell, Shelbourne, Crusaders and Dundalk all losing in the UEFA Cup. That left Glenavon who had a 0-0 home draw, and Raith, who won 4-0 at home.

In the Cup Winners Cup Linfield lost, Wrexham drew, and Derry won 1-0. In the Champions Cup Rangers won 1-0 at home thanks to a

second-half Gordon Durie goal, but will it be enough, okay it may only be a team from Cyprus, but the lads were playing at home and only won by the single goal. Okay it is only the beginning of the season but it begs the question can British teams win the European competitions.

All the normal problems can be looked at. For example how many foreigners do Rangers have playing for them? There's Craig Moore, Laudrup, Gascoigne, Hateley, Yurin, and Mi... (well I'm not going to even try and attempt to spell the lads name from Russia). I for one hope the silly three foreigner restriction rule will be thrown out, but unfortunately it may be that the case against the rule could also throw out the transfer fee system in Europe.

There could be a new case involving a European player who is simply looking to get rid of the three foreigner rule and not the transfer fee system.

Whilst in the UK I had time to analyse the prices paid for players these days. With the lira falling against other major European currencies the lure of the Serie A is declining.

However the prices being paid for players by English clubs is ridiculous. When Liverpool bought Mark Kennedy I had seen him play the week before. He was class, but NO teenager is worth over a million pounds. The day I saw Kennedy play there was a young lad call Ben Thatcher playing behind him and I thought he was a better player. (By the way Jason Van Blerk seemed to be organising the team that day (he seems to be a very vocal lad) and looked as though he had found his niche in a First Division club. Mitchell and Oldfield up front were fairly ineffectual, and a late Bolton goal gave them victory by the odd goal.)



UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER



Blacktown City & SBS

piece of ignorant drama (ohh but did send a reporter there, good well I heard both events live whilst in the UK and the story cut bits and pieces out of the events for its own convenience. Never let the facts get in the way of a good story). No-one in England really cares what 60 Minutes says, maybe we should treat them with the same contempt here.

Also look out for 11pm Monday nights as the CSI package on English Premier League soccer is back on the ABC. Okay it's not when they could put it on, earlier, but at least it should be earlier than last year. Also 2KY has its Soccer Show back on at 11pm on Saturday evenings.

If you are looking to go overseas to England and are looking for a match guaranteed to have goals in it then a Charlton verse Plymouth game would not be top of your priorities. But between 1959 and 1963 it might have been, for in eight games they shared 60 goals, the results were:

1959/60 Charlton 5 Plymouth 2; Plymouth 6 Charlton 4

1960/61 Charlton 6 Plymouth 4; Plymouth 6 Charlton 4

1961/62 Charlton 3 Plymouth 1; Plymouth 2 Charlton 1

1962/63 Charlton 6 Plymouth 3; Plymouth 6 Charlton 1

(From the Association of Football Statisticians)

Micky got to tip the results of all the leagues in Scotland and England. Well just to show I'm just as bad at tipping as him here are my champions. England PL — Newcastle, Div 1 — Norwich, Div 2 — Brentford, Div 3 — Preston NE, Scotland PL — Rangers, Div 1 — Dundee United, Div 2 — Stenhousemuir, Div 3 — Ross County. Well those teams may as well begin thinking about next season already after I've tipped them because now they'll all probably choke at the finish, or finish mid-table. Mind you I'm pretty good at tipping last season's champions now!

P.S. There was a slight problem with some prints last week. Micky picked AC Milan for Serie A.

For all those Arsenal fans hoping that the off-season signings mean that Arsenal will be exciting under Bruce Rioch here is a statistic that won't gladden the heart. In 1969/70 a certain Mr Bruce Rioch was Aston Villa's top goalscorer. He scored all of six goals!

Hopefully in the next few weeks I will be putting pen to paper (well actually finger to keyboard) and will write up some of the experiences of my British trip in regards to football. I hope it will be interesting for you the reader to learn about some of the 112 football clubs I visited (88 English League clubs). Suffice to say for now if you ever get the opportunity to go to a game where there will be a full house at Wembley do it.

If your team makes it too (as mine did), that is an awesome bonus. The ground may be old and tattered in places but still brings out the emotion in even the coldest of people. Wembley is not the largest ground (as in playing surface) in England, and it is not the smallest. Arsenal's Highbury is the smallest, whilst Carlisle's Brunton Park is the largest (ahh another plug for the blues, Mr Knighton the chairman of the REAL United (Carlisle of course) will be pleased with me!)

Well in forth coming weeks there should be news on the giant charity auction held by UKSSD. Look out for details as it will as usual be very big. If any supporters are holding an event then please write or fax the details (please we need it in writing to avoid any confusion) to us at UKSSD and we'll put it in our club diary free of charge. UKSSD isn't about us it's about you the fans of BRITISH football.

A couple of pieces of trivia. In 1980 Sunderland was prevented from playing at Roker Park. Arsenal's Alan Sunderland was suspended for the match against his namesake's club. Goalkeepers Streten and Kelly made their international debuts for England and Ireland respectively in these two countries clash in 1949. England won 9-2 yet Streten never played for England again, whilst Kelly kept his place in the Irish team for their next game!

Look out for UKSSD in an upcoming advertisement campaign. The guy involved is an Everton supporter and UKSSD stuff is in the background. We won't name the company yet, but keep an eye out.

Coming back to Australia it is funny comparing the quality of grounds. To many young Australians they can't believe people would stand up to watch a football game.



Steve McManaman: Should he be an England regular?

In England that is becoming more and more unusual with teams like Bolton having to move out of Bolton to build a new all-seater stadium.

In Australia the grounds will have to eventually seat all the spectators, and facilities will have to be improved to get more spectators to come.

People expect quality in facilities these days, and whilst it won't be that Australian clubs will build anything to compare to Highbury's North Bank it would be nice to have two, maybe even three grandstands for the football fans. Not just stands, but quality eating facilities. To quote Kevin Baldwin in his book "This Supporting Life".

"It seems strange that such unhealthy food should be sold to supporters when the players are (theoretically) very concerned about eating the right things. I am not suggesting that performers and spectators should always eat exactly the same food (this would, after all, be rather unpleasant for followers of horse racing), but the gulf here is huge." (Baldwin 1994: 104).

There is something radically wrong with the system FIFA uses in its world rankings. Australia is below giants of the sport like the UAE, Senegal (I suppose they are quite good), Japan,

Mali, Guinea, and Lithuania. That is just because we don't play enough internationals, but they must be joking!!

It's not just Australia who are ripped off. England have fallen below Scotland, and whilst I'd say the English national team is in the doldrums and there is some quality football played in Scotland I doubt that either deserve to be in 20th and 21st place. Okay Italy and Brazil played the World Cup final, but Spain did not make the semi's, and they are rated third.

Whilst Norway, who — let's face it — bored the pants off everyone in USA '94 are NOT the fourth best team in the world. Mexico are rated the second best team in the Americas, but they did not shine in the Copa America recently. It's time for a revamp of the system.

Whilst in England I saw England take on Uruguay and whilst Uruguay were unlucky not to win, the quality of the game left a lot to be desired. One man who did stand out was Steve McManaman. Shaggy, as he is known, does look like the character from Scooby Doo, played down the wing and really shone as an outstanding prospect. The first time I saw him was the Liverpool versus Sunderland FA Cup final, and he was a class act as a teenager then.

Now he should be an integral part of the England team. Despite his pitfalls (in particular Koeman and Nay%\$#@im) David Seaman is still number one in goals. The backs would probably consist of Le Saux, Adams, Pallister, and Rob Jones. Okay Adams and Pallister are in many ways alike but they would still be the best two backs in England. There is no place for Barnes or Beardsley anymore.

Ince has to play, McManaman should also play, Anderton is a great midfielder player and should continue his development as an England player (he is out for the first month of the season though). That leaves one spot left for either Gazza or Platt. Gazza would get my vote for his sheer inspiration to the team. Shearer should play up front alongside... David Platt!? Why not?

He has scored for England before and I know there are many young English strikers but he has the level head and experience. Of course Le Tissier could be on the bench, and Ferdinand should also be there (and young Gary Neville on the bench). I doubt that this team would ever be selected. For one thing there are not enough Spurs players, and secondly Teddy Sheringham HAS to be selected (I'm not quite sure why!). Scotland seem to need some younger players,

whilst Wales is still scrounging for Third Division players who may have played a game for a YTS side so they can fill their team sheet! Otherwise only players with senior citizen cards may apply.

What is going on at Manchester United?

Okay so some players left, but I heard that Schmichael has threatened to leave if the crowds don't leave him alone, and that Beckham, Sharpe and McClair may all go too. I read a letter from a supporter who said that she thinks Alex Ferguson should have a clearance of players like Giggs, Cantona, Irwin, Cole, Pallister, Neville, and Bruce as well. But as the writer says she is a supporter... of Ipswich Town!

If Mr Ferguson is not careful though he will have no one left to moan to. After all many of the supporters have jumped ship to Blackburn.

On that note how many Blackburn jerseys are we seeing these days. Four years ago when Rovers were struggling in the old Division Two we did not see any, now they are popping up all over the place.

There are supporters who are genuine out there, but I bet there is a marked difference between the number of registered supporters in the Blackburn supporter club of Australia as compared to those who claim to be Rover fans (many of whom will claim to have once supported Liverpool then Manchester United — unthinkable back in the UK). These same people probably supported Celtic when they won nine titles in a row, and now wonder why people with Scottish accents look at them strangely when they say they now support Rangers!

If you do support a British club and want to join in some fun with some other supporters in Australia, give us a ring or drop us a line at UKSSD and we'll put you in touch with your club's representative. You'll have a ball.

If you have ever wondered why there is a Pools panel in England that gives what they think the result would have been for an abandoned game it came about because of FA Cup fixtures in 1963. The third round that year saw games scheduled for the 5th of January.

Unfortunately due to inclement weather that winter the round did not finish until the 11th of March. There were 261 postponements for the 32 ties, one tie being called off 14 times!

Just briefly most of you know what fanzines in Britain are now,

but for those who don't I'll try and briefly explain. They are mainly satire pieces written by fans about their favourite club. Many also include match reviews from the terraces as they say. If your club has one it is well worth getting your hands on it because it will tell you the news that the club won't reveal. What ever you do don't take them seriously or many of the articles will go straight through to the keeper!

If you've seen the new Foxtel advertisements on TV you'll have noticed a brief glimpse of English soccer. Mr Murdoch is involved in Foxtel and also, obviously, with Sky TV in England. Hopefully very soon we'll all be able to watch live PL matches on TV direct from the UK.

It will be fantastic to watch the Premier League, and possibly even Scottish games. Fingers crossed as it does look promising. Here's hoping we have some big news to announce in these pages on coverage of our beloved game, and sooner rather than later.

Blackpool conceded a First Division record of 125 goals in 1930/31 and yet avoided relegation. They finished 20th in the days of two up two down. In 1922/23 Notts County scored only 46 goals (in 42 games) and was crowned champions of the division. (Ahh, the good old days!)

Well that is it for this week. A quick hello to Bob and Michael on the Central Coast, Liverpool and West Ham seem to be thriving without you. I hope Micky B will be back to full health for next week, and I'll see you all later. As Micky would say, stay lucky!

— Stuart Jones

CLUB DIARY

**WESTERN SYDNEY
SWANS INDOOR
SOCCER
SPECTACULAR**

VENUE:
Anne Clark Netball
Centre, Church Street,
Lidcombe.

TIME:
5:30pm.

DATE:
Friday August 25.

**ENTERTAINMENT
FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY**

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 526
SAT. 26TH AUGUST, 1995

ENGLISH PREMIER DIV.	BOLTON	BLACKBURN	1
	COVENTRY	ARSENAL	2
	EVERTON	SOUTHAMPTON	3
	LEEDS	ASTON VILLA	4
	MAN. UTD	WIMBLEDON	5
	MIDDLESBRO	CHELSEA	6
	NOTTINGHAM F.	WEST HAM	7
	QPR	MAN. CITY	8
	TOTTENHAM	LIVERPOOL	9
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	BIRMINGHAM	NORWICH	10
	CRYSTAL P.	CHARLTON	11
	DERBY	GRIMSBY	12
	LUTON	LEICESTER	13
	MILLWALL	SOUTHEND	14
	OLDHAM	SHEFFIELD UTD	15
	PORTSMOUTH	READING	16
	SUNDERLAND	WOLVES	17
	TRANMERE	HUDDERSFIELD	18
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WATFORD	BARNLEY	19
	WEST BROM.	IPSWICH	20
	BRADFORD C.	SHREWSBURY	21
	BRISTOL C.	STOCKPORT	22
	BURNLEY	BRENTFORD	23
	CARLISLE	SWINDON	24
	HULL	BLACKPOOL	25
	OXFORD UTD	ROTHERHAM	26
	PETERBORO	NOTTS COUNTY	27
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	SWANSEA	CHESTERFIELD	28
	WALSALL	BRISTOL R.	29
	WREXHAM	BRIGHTON	30
	WYCOMBE	BOURNEMOUTH	31
	YORK	CREWE	32
	CHESTER	PLYMOUTH	33
	COLCHESTER	LINCOLN	34
	DONCASTER	CARDIFF	35
	EXETER	SCARBORO	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	FULHAM	TORQUAY	37
	GILLINGHAM	CAMBRIDGE U.	38
	HEREFORD	BURY	39
	LEYTON O.	DARLINGTON	40
	NORTHAMPTON	MANSFIELD	41
	PRESTON	WIGAN A.	42
	ROCHDALE	HARTLEPOOL	43
	SCUNTHORPE	BARNET	44
	FALKIRK	ABERDEEN	45
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV.	HEARTS	MOTHERWELL	46
	PARTICK	HIBERNIAN	47
	RAITH	CELTIC	48
	RANGERS	KILMARNOCK	49
	DUNDEE	AIRDRIE	50
	DUNFERMLINE	DUNDEE U.	51
	G'N'CK MORTON	DUMBARTON	52
	ST MIRREN	ST JOHNSTONE	53
	BERWICK	STIRLING A.	54
SCOT. DIV. 2	CLYDE	FORFAR	55

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 525
SAT. 19TH AUGUST, 1995

ENGLISH PREMIER DIV.	BLACKBURN	QPR	1	1-0
	CHELSEA	EVERTON	2	0-0
	LIVERPOOL	SHEFFIELD WED.	3	1-0
	MAN. CITY	TOTTENHAM	4	1-1
	NEWCASTLE	COVENTRY	5	3-0
	SOUTHAMPTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	6	3-4
	WEST HAM	LEEDS	7	1-2
	WIMBLEDON	BOLTON	8	3-2
	BARNLEY	OLDHAM	9	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	BIRMINGHAM	10	3-1
	GRIMSBY	PORTSMOUTH	11	2-1
	HUDDERSFIELD	WATFORD	12	1-0
	IPSWICH	CRYSTAL P.	13	1-0
	LEICESTER	STOKE	14	2-3
	NORWICH	SUNDERLAND	15	0-0
	PORT VALE	MILLWALL	16	0-1
	READING	DERBY	17	3-2
	SHEFFIELD UTD	TRANMERE	18	0-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SOUTHEND	LUTON	19	0-1
	BLACKPOOL	WREXHAM	20	2-0
	BOURNEMOUTH	PETERBORO	21	3-0
	BRENTFORD	OXFORD UTD	22	1-0
	BRIGHTON	BRADFORD C.	23	0-0
	BRISTOL R.	SWANSEA	24	2-2
	CHESTERFIELD	CARLISLE	25	3-0
	NOTTS COUNTY	WYCOMBE	26	2-0
	ROTHERHAM	HULL	27	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	SHREWSBURY	WALSALL	28	0-2
	STOCKPORT	BURNLEY	29	0-0
	SWINDON	YORK	30	3-0
	BARNET	COLCHESTER	31	1-1
	BURY	CHESTER	32	1-1
	CAMBRIDGE U.	HEREFORD	33	2-2
	CARDIFF	NORTHAMPTON	34	0-1
	DARLINGTON	ROCHDALE	35	0-1
	HARTLEPOOL	EXETER	36	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	LINCOLN	GILLINGHAM	37	0-3
	MANSFIELD	LEYTON O.	38	0-0

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney
0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07)
11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 19/8/95 WEEK 525

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED									
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
11st	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th
31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th										

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 525 SAT. AUGUST 19, 1995

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

4, 24, 27, 31, 32, 33.

Supplementary Number 38.

SOCCER POOLS FORM GUIDE

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE										ENGLISH DIVISION THREE									
Millwall	2	2	0	0	3	1	6			Peterborough	2	1	0	1	3	4	3		
Tranmere	2	1	1	0	4	2	4			Walsall	2	1	0	1	2	2	3		
Reading	2	1	1	0	4	3	4			Oxford Utd	2	1	0	1	1	1	3		
Stoke	2	1	1	0	4	3	4			Rotherham	2	0	1	1	2	3	1		
Norwich	2	1	1	0	3	1	4			York	2	0	1	1	2	5	1		
West Bromwich	2	1	1	0	2	1	4			Bristol City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
Portsmouth	2	1	0	1	5	4	3			Crewe	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		
Barnley	2	1	0	1	5	5	3			Hull	2	0	1	1	1	2	1		
Oldham	2	1	0	1	4	2	3			Brighton	2	0	1	1	1	3	1		
Birmingham	2	1	0	1	4	4	3			Wrexham	2	0	1	1	1	3	1		
Crystal Palace	2	1	0	1	4	4	3			Wycombe	2	0	1	1	1	3	1		
Leicester	2	1	0	1	4	4	3			Carlisle	2	0	0	2	1	5	0		
Charlton	2	1	0	1	3	2	3			Shrewsbury	2	0	0	2	1	5	0		
Grimsby	2	1	0	1	3	3	3			ENGLISH DIVISION TWO									
Watford	2	1	0	1	2	2	3			Gillingham	2	2	0	0	5	1	6		
Ipswich	2	1	0	1	2	3	3			Northampton	2	2	0	0	5	1	6		
Luton	2	1	0	1	2	3	3			Doncaster	2	2	0	0	3	1	6		
Huddersfield	2	1	0	1	1	3	3			Hereford	2	1	1	0	6	3	4		
Wolverhampton	2	0	2	0	3	3	2			Fulham	2	1	1	0	6	4	4		
Derby	2	0	1	1	2	3	1			Cambridge	2	1	1	0	4	3	4		
Sunderland	2	0	1	1	1	2	1			Rochdale	2	1	1	0	4	3	4		
Port Vale	2	0	1	1	0	1	1			Chester	2	1	1	0	3	1	4		
Sheffield United	2	0	0	2	2	5	0			Colchester	2	1	1	0	3	2	4		
										Leyton Orient	2	1	1	0	1	0	4		
										Preston	2	1	0	1	3	2	3		
										Wigan	2	1	0	1	3	3	3		
										Lincoln	2	1	0	1	2	4	3		
										Darlington	2	1	0	1	1	1	3		
										Cardiff	2	0	1	1	3	4	1		
										Scarborough	2	0	1	1	2	3	1		
										Mansfield	2	0	1	1	2	4	1		
										Barnet	2	0	1	1	2	5	1		
										Bury	2	0	1	1	2	5	1		
										Exeter	2	0	1	1	0	1	1		
										Hartlepool	2	0	1	1	0	2	1		
										Scunthorpe	2	0	0	2	2	4	0		
										Torquay	2	0	0	2	1	3	0		
										Plymouth	2	0	0	2	1	4	0		

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa 3 (Taylor 14th, Draper 27th, Yorke 37th pen) Manchester United 1 (Beckham 84th). Halftime 3-0. Attendance: 34,655.

Blackburn 1 (Shearer 5th pen) Queen's Park Rangers 0. 1-0. 22,860
Chelsea 0 Everton 0. 29,858

Liverpool 1 (Collymore 61st) Sheffield Wednesday 0. 0-0. 40,535

Manchester City 1 (Rosier 51st) Tottenham 1 (Sheringham 33rd) 0-1. 30,827

Newcastle 3 (Lee 7th, Beardsley 82nd pen, Ferdinand 83rd) Coventry 0. 1-0. 36,485

Southampton 3 (Le Tissier 10th and 69th pens, 81st) Nottingham Forest 4 (Cooper 8th, Woan 36th, Roy 42nd, 79th) 1-3. 15,164

West Ham 1 (Williamstown 5th) Leeds 2 (Yeboah 48th, 57th) 1-0. 22,901

Arsenal 1 (Ian Wright 36th min) Middlesbrough 1 (Nick Barmby 31st). Halftime 1-1. Attendance 37,308.

SEE PAGE 24 FOR RESULTS

Kanchelskis deal on and off again

The bitter tug-of war for Ukrainian born Russian star Andrei Kanchelskis showed no signs of abating late last week when the winger flew back into Britain determined to become an Everton player.

Kanchelskis' \$A10.59 million transfer from Manchester United to Everton appeared to collapse when United aborted the deal last week having failed to reach a compromise with his former club Shakter Donetsk over a sell-on clause.

The Ukrainian outfit are claiming 30 percent of any fee United receive for last season's top scorer.

Everton are still determined to land the 26-year-old, who has been training with the club for three weeks, and they could ask the Football Association to arbitrate.

On arriving at Manchester Airport from Helsinki — where he came on as substitute in Russia's 6-0 European Championship win over Finland — Kanchelskis said he would continue to train with Everton.

The player is still registered with Manchester United but has said he will not play for the club again as long as Alex Ferguson is manager.

Middlesbrough boss Bryan Robson, a former team-mate of Kanchelskis at Old Trafford, earlier denied he was ready to make a fresh bid after failing earlier this year. But the Russian international could yet end up at Tottenham, whose manager Gerry Francis is closely monitoring the on-off transfer saga.

The Spurs chief said: "He is a player that we bid for at the start of the summer but we were out of the ball game quite early."

"It sounds like a strange deal — Everton still claim he's their player — so we don't know what is going on. But



Andrei Kanchelskis: On-off transfer saga continues...

the fee appears to have gone up and we have only so much money to spend."

On his suggested fresh interest in Kanchelskis, Robson insisted: "As far as I am concerned it is pure speculation. I have not been in touch with any club since I made a bid last month."

"I think Manchester United and Everton will sort it out," he added.

Everton are set to call a crisis meeting of their legal team over the on-off deal and if there is no chance of FA arbitration, could try and sue United for alleged breach of contract.

EX-ENGLAND BOSS OUT OF HOSPITAL

Former England manager Bobby Robson, now in charge of Portugal's FC Porto, is recovering at home from the removal of a cyst from his nasal cavity, said FC Porto president Jorge Pinto da Costa last Sunday.

In a news conference following the FC Porto-Sporting match, Pinto da Costa dismissed a report in the London tabloid Sunday Mirror that the 62-year-old Robson had had emergency surgery in London to remove a cancerous growth in his intestine.

In an operation to remove the cyst last Tuesday in a London hospital, doctors had to perforate the palate and pull some teeth, Pinto da Costa said.

"It was not a difficult operation in terms of danger, but it was delicate because of where the cyst was located," he said. "He is on his way to recovery because he has the health of a 40-year-old man."

The Porto president did not say if the cyst was malignant or benign, but a reporter from Portugal's TSF Radio said he had received confirmation that it was a cancerous tumor.

Robson, who guided England to the World Cup semi-final in 1990 and FC Porto to the 1994-95 Portuguese first division championship, was due back in Oporto in "one or two weeks," Pinto da Costa said.

He added that Robson still required some plastic surgery to correct the damage done to his mouth in the operation.



Gould lives Welsh dream

Bobby Gould said his dream had come true when he was installed last week as the new manager of the Welsh national soccer team.

The 49-year-old former Wimbledon, West Brom and Coventry boss agreed a two-and-a-half year deal taking him up to the end of the 1998 World Cup qualification series.

Gould, who succeeds the sacked Mike Smith and is the country's fourth manager in 18 months, described his appointment as "a great honour".

Gould said: "A lot of people might think I'm English but I know another Englishman managing another country who has been very successful."

"If I can achieve what Jack Charlton has done with the Republic of Ireland I am sure this nation will be going in the right direction."

Gould said that he had been overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of Welsh fans he had encountered in the weeks since he applied for the job.

He added: "I had a dream and that was to become the manager of Wales. It has now been fulfilled."

"I received a phone call inviting me to become manager. It only took 10 seconds for me to say yes."

Gould emerged as the choice of the 28-member Football Association of Wales council which selected the new boss from a shortlist of seven names.

Wrexham and Welsh under-21 manager Brian Flynn and former Everton boss Mike Walker had been thought to be the front runners but FAW president Brian Fear explained: "We met at a panel and considered Bobby as the best of the candidates. Our aim is to reach the final stages of the 1998 World Cup. Bobby's aim is to get us there. We've been so close but we hope Bobby will lead us to that goal."

British TRANSFERS

MAJOR TRANSFER DEALS INVOLVING BRITISH TEAMS DURING THE OFF-SEASON:

Stan Collymore, Nottingham Forest to Liverpool, Stg8.5 million (\$A13.01 million)

Dennis Bergkamp, Inter Milan to Arsenal, Stg7.5 million (\$A15.39 million)

Les Ferdinand, Queens Park Rangers to Newcastle, 6 million (9.6 million)

Paul Ince, Manchester United to Inter Milan, Stg6 million (\$A12.71 million)

David Platt, Sampdoria to Arsenal, Stg4.75 million (\$A10.06 million)

Chris Armstrong, Crystal Palace to Tottenham, Stg4.5 million (\$A9.53 million)

Warren Barton, Wimbledon to Newcastle, Stg4 million (\$A8.47 million)

Savo Milosevic, Partizan Belgrade to Aston Villa, Stg3.5 million (\$A7.42 million)

Gica Popescu, Tottenham to Barcelona, Stg3 million (\$A6.36 million)

David Ginola, Paris Saint Germain to Newcastle, Stg2.5 million (\$A5.30 million)

Stefan Schwarz, Arsenal to Fiorentina, Stg2.5 million (\$A5.30 million)

Gareth Southgate, Crystal Palace to Aston Villa, Stg2.5 million (\$A5.30 million)

Craig Short, Derby to Everton, Stg2.4 million (\$A5.09 million)

Georgi Kinkladze, Dinamo Tbilisi to Manchester City, Stg2 million (\$A4.24 million)

Andrea Silenzi, Torino to Nottingham Forest, Stg1.8 million (\$A3.81 million)

Marc Degryse, Anderlecht to Sheffield Wednesday, Stg1.5 million (\$A3.18 million)



ENGLAND - CROATIA POSTPONED

England's friendly soccer international against Croatia at Wembley next month was postponed last week due to the current conflict in former Yugoslavia.

The Football Association (FA), which has been involved in daily discussions with both UEFA and the Foreign Office, decided the situation in the Balkans was too sensitive to go ahead with the match on Wednesday, September 6.

FA spokesman Mike Parry said: "After taking advice from the Foreign Office and speaking to all the appropriate authorities, it seems wise to postpone the match in the present

climate. We hope we will be able to rearrange it for next year."

"I should stress the Foreign Office have never suggested we should call the match off. It is entirely an FA decision."

It is believed that only 2,000 to 3,000 tickets had been sold for the match.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, had urged the FA to cancel the fixture.

"The timing of the game is very unfortunate with young men, women and children dying there and I'm surprised Croatia are sending a team to play football when the situation is as it is," said Taylor.

ROUND 1

AUG 27

JAN 28

Kalamata v OFI
Ethnikos v Panachaiki
Edessaikos v Apollon
Iraklis v Aris
Larissa v Panathinaikos
AEK v Paniliakos
Xanthi v PAOK
Ionikos v Panionios
Athinaios v Olympiakos

GREECE

ROUND 2

SEPT 10

FEB 4

Ethnikos v Kalamata
OFI v Edessaikos
Panachaiki v Iraklis
Apollon v Larissa
Aris v AEK
Panathinaikos v Xanthi
Paniliakos v Ionikos
PAOK v Athinaikos
Panionios v Olympiakos

ROUND 3

SEPT 17

FEB 11

Kalamata v Edessaikos
Iraklis v Ethnikos
Larissa v OFI
AEK v Panachaiki
Xanthi v Apollon
Ionikos v Aris
Athinaios v Panathinaikos
Olympiakos v Paniliakos
Panionios v PAOK

ROUND 4

SEPT 24

FEB 18

Iraklis v Kalamata
Edessaikos v Larissa
Ethnikos v AEK
OFI v Xanthi
Panachaiki v Ionikos
Apollon v Athinaikos
Aris v Olympiakos
Panathinaikos v Panionios
Paniliakos v PAOK

ROUND 5

OCT 1

FEB 25

Kalamata v Larissa
AEK v Iraklis
Xanthi v Edessaikos
Ionikos v Ethnikos
Athinaios v OFI
Olympiakos v Panachaiki
Panionios v Apollon
PAOK v Aris
Paniliakos v Panathinaikos

ROUND 6

OCT 15

MAR 3

AEK v Kalamata
Larissa v Xanthi
Iraklis v Ionikos
Edessaikos v Athinaikos
Ethnikos v Olympiakos
OFI v Panionios
Panachaiki v PAOK
Apollon v Paniliakos
Aris v Panathinaikos

ROUND 7

OCT 22

MAR 10

Kalamata v Xanthi
Ionikos v AEK
Athinaios v Larissa
Olympiakos v Iraklis
Panionios v Edessaikos
PAOK v Ethnikos
Paniliakos v OFI
Panathinaikos v Panachaiki
Aris v Apollon

ROUND 8

OCT 29

MAR 17

Ionikos v Kalamata
Xanthi v Athinaikos
AEK v Olympiakos
Larissa v Panionios
Iraklis v PAOK
Edessaikos v Paniliakos
Ethnikos v Panathinaikos
OFI v Aris
Panachaiki v Apollon

ROUND 9

NOV 5

MAR 24

Kalamata v Athinaikos
Olympiakos v Ionikos
Panionios v Xanthi
PAOK v AEK
Paniliakos v Larissa
Panathinaikos v Iraklis
Aris v Edessaikos
Apollon v Ethnikos
Panachaiki v OFI

ROUND 10

NOV 19

MAR 31

Olympiakos v Kalamata
Athinaios v Panionios
Ionikos v PAOK
Xanthi v Paniliakos
AEK v Panathinaikos
Larissa v Aris
Iraklis v Apollon
Edessaikos v Panachaiki
OFI v Ethnikos

ROUND 11

NOV 26

APR 7

Kalamata v Panionios
PAOK v Olympiakos
Paniliakos v Athinaikos
Panathinaikos v Ionikos
Aris v Xanthi
Apollon v AEK
Panachaiki v Larissa
OFI v Iraklis
Ethnikos v Edessaikos

ROUND 12

DEC 3

APR 21

PAOK v Kalamata
Panionios v Paniliakos
Olympiakos v Panathinaikos
Athinaios v Aris
Ionikos v Apollon
Xanthi v Panachaiki
AEK v OFI
Larissa v Ethnikos
Edessaikos v Iraklis

ROUND 13

DEC 10

APR 28

Kalamata-Paniliakos
Panathinaikos v PAOK
Aris v Panionios
Apollon v Olympiakos
Panachaiki v Athinaikos
OFI v Ionikos
Ethnikos v Xanthi
Edessaikos v AEK
Iraklis v Larissa

ROUND 14

DEC 17

MAY 5

Panathinaikos v Kalamata
Paniliakos v Aris
PAOK v Apollon
Panionios v Panachaiki
Olympiakos v OFI
Athinaios v Ethnikos
Ionikos v Edessaikos
Xanthi v Iraklis
Larissa v AEK

ROUND 15

JAN 7

MAY 12

Kalamata v Aris
Apollon v Panathinaikos
Panachaiki v Paniliakos
OFI v PAOK
Ethnikos v Panionios
Edessaikos v Olympiakos
Iraklis v Athinaikos
Larissa v Ionikos
AEK v Xanthi

ROUND 16

JAN 14

MAY 19

Apollon v Kalamata
Aris v Panachaiki
Panathinaikos v OFI
Paniliakos v Ethnikos
PAOK v Edessaikos
Panionios v Iraklis
Olympiakos v Larissa
Athinaios v AEK
Xanthi v Ionikos

ROUND 17

JAN 21

MAY 26

Kalamata v Panachaiki
OFI v Apollon
Ethnikos v Aris
Edessaikos v Panathinaikos
Iraklis v Paniliakos
Larissa v PAOK
AEK v Panionios
Xanthi v Olympiakos
Ionikos v Athinaikos